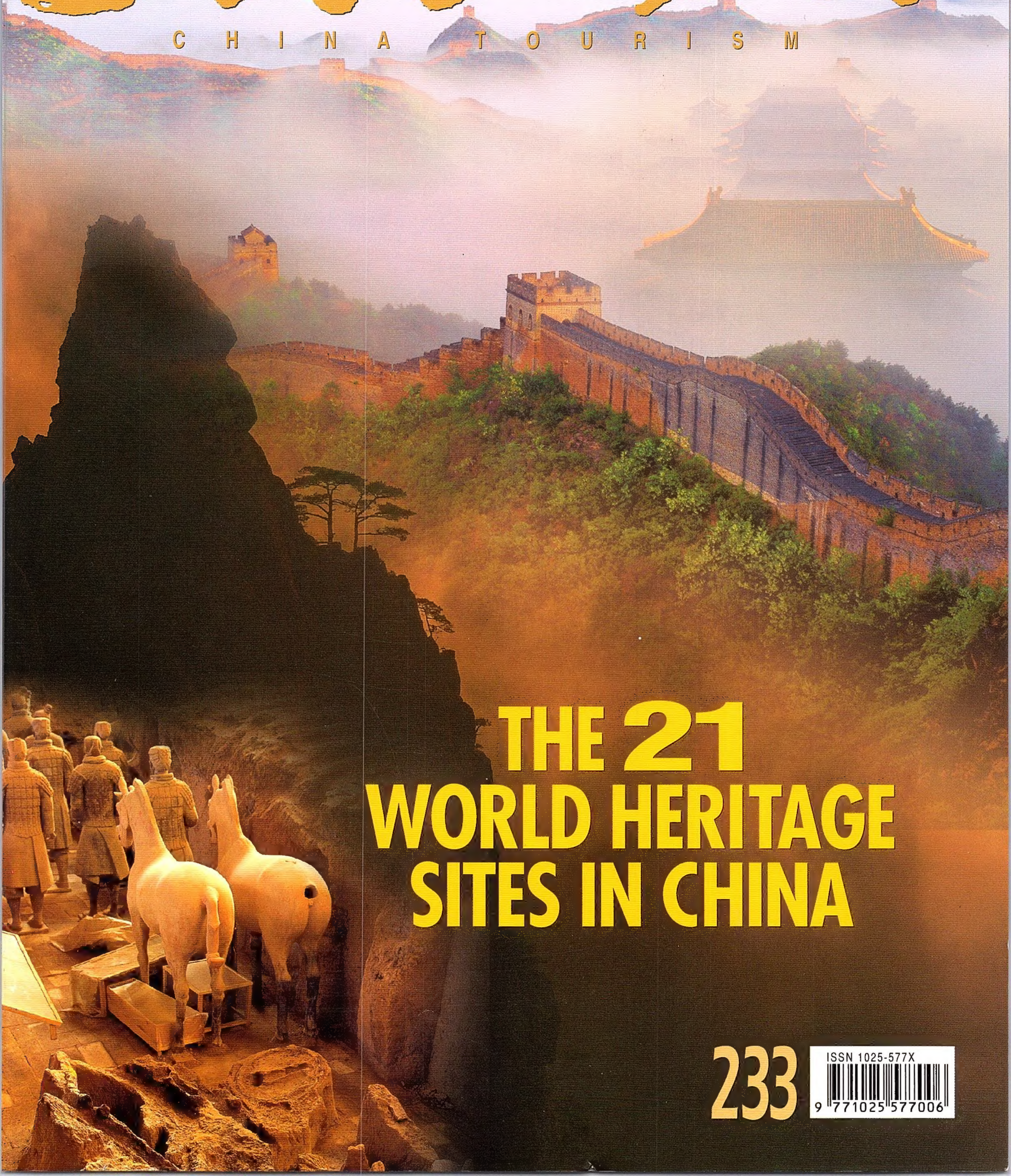
DECEMBER 1999 PRICE: HK$38

China

CHINA TOURISM



THE 21 WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN CHINA

233

ISSN 1025-577X

视股份

The Tang City and the Three Kingdoms & Outlaw of the Marsh City, two magnificent theme parks of Wuxi CCTV Film & Television Productions Co. Ltd., amaze the world with their beautiful scenery and man-made structures. They vividly demonstrate the architecture, folklore, lifestyle and cultural heritage of the Han, Tang and Song, the three dynasties that are considered the epitome of the ancient Chinese society. Touring the theme parks, visitors can enjoy various entertainment programmes, such as horsemanship, singing and dancing, and stunt performances which demonstrate the colourful folk heritage left by these dynasties. The fascinating natural scenes of the area and the high-tech amusement facilities in the parks delight and thrill visitors as well. These theme parks are also the largest fully-equipped studio sets in the country, in which numerous films and television programmes have been shot. It's no wonder the parks have attracted flocks of visitors, both tourists and film or TV production teams from home and abroad.

Come and visit the Wuxi CCTV theme parks to immerse yourself in the historical atmosphere!

CCTV Wuxi CCTV Studio Site Corp. Ltd.

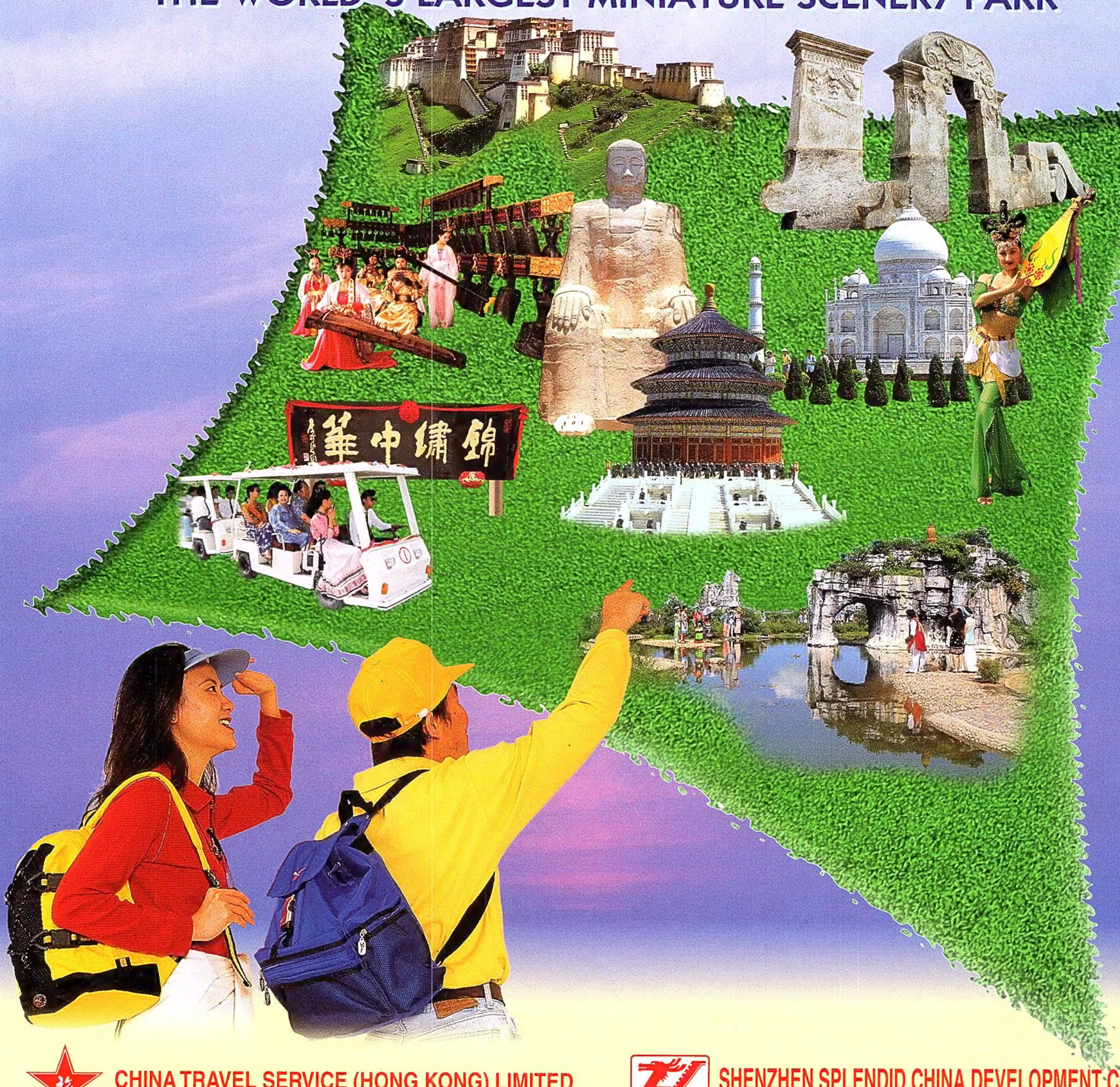
Add: Qitang, Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, China Tel: (510) 555 5252 (sales & marketing), (510) 555 0117 ext. 5002, 2003
Fax: (510) 555 5252, 555 5219, 555 3219 Website: http://www.cctvbase.com E-mail: cctvbase@publicl.wx.js.cn

A glimpse at the thousand-year-old civilizations of China

Travel over the magnificent mountains and rivers throughout China in a single day

"SPLENDID CHINA" SHENZHEN CHINA

THE WORLD 'S LARGEST MINIATURE SCENERY PARK



CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE (HONG KONG) LIMITED
General Agents for the business of "Splendid China" in Hong Kong, Macau,
Taiwan as well as Overseas T/A LICENCE NO.350273
78-83 Connaught Road C., Hong Kong. Tel:: 2853 3888 Fax: 2854 1383

SHENZHEN SPLENDID CHINA DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.
Overseas Chinese Town, Shenzhen, China.
Tel : 6600626 Fax : 6601008

U.S.China Travel Service Inc. (Main Office)
L/L, 575 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, U.S.A.
Tel: (1-415)398 6627 Fax: (1-415)398 6669
E-mail: ctsusa@aol.com

(Los Angeles Office)
Suite 303, U.S. CTS Building, 119 S. Atlantic Blvd.,
Monterey Park, CA 91754, U.S.A.
Tel: (1-626)457 8668 Fax: (1-626)457 8955
E-mail: usctsla@aol.com

China Travel Service Inc.
801-803 Sabino padilla Corner Espeleta St., Sta., Cruz, Manila,
Philippines.
Tel: (63-2)733 1274, 733 1276 Fax: (63-2)733 1431
E-mail: ctsphil@vasia.com

Singa China Travel Service Pte. Ltd.
1 Park Road #03-49 to 52, People's Park Complex, Singapore 059108.
Tel: (62)532 9988 Fax: (62)535 4912, 538 6068
E-mail: cts@singachinatrvl.com.sg

China Travel Service (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
559 Yaowaraj Road, Sampuntawong, Bangkok, 10100, Thailand
Tel: (66-2)226 0041 Fax: (66-2)226 4712-3
Tlx: 84470 CTSTHAI TH

China Travel Service (Japan) Co., Ltd.
〒 103 Buyoo Building, 3-8-16, Nihombashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.
Tel: (81-3)3273 5512 Fax: (81-3)3273 2667
E-mail: y-yama@magical3.egg.or.jp

China Travel Service (U.K.) Ltd.
CTS House , 7 Upper St. Martins Lane, London WC2H 9DL, England.
Tel: (44-171)836 9911 Fax: (44-171)836 3121
E-mail: cts@ctsuk.com

China Travel Service (Aust) Pty. Ltd.
G/F., 757-759 George Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000, Australia.
Tel: (61-2)9211 2633, 9281 7788 Fax: (61-2)9281 3595
E-mail: cts@all.com.au

China Travel Service (Canada) Inc. (Main Office)
556 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5Z 1E9
Tel: (1-604)872 8787 Fax: (1-604)873 2823
E-mail: chinatl@max-net.com

(Toronto Office)
438 University Avenue Suite ,306, Box 28,Toronto, Ont. Canada M5G 2K8
Tel: (1-416)979 8993 Fax: (1-416)979 8220
E-mail: ctsyyz@idirect.com

China Travel Service (France) S.A.R.L.
32 Rue Vignon, 75009 Paris, France.
Tel: (33-1)4451,5566 Fax: (33-1)4451 5560
E-mail: cts@ctsfrance.com

China Travel & Trading (Deutschland) GmbH (Main Office)
Dusseldorfer Strasse 14, D-60329 Frankfurt/Main, F.R. Germany.
Tel: (49-69)9705 260 Fax: (49-69)9705 2614
E-mail: ctsfra@aol.com

(Berlin Office)
Beusseltrabe 5, D-10553 Berlin, Germany.
Tel: (49-30)393 4068 Fax: (49-30)391 8085

China Travel System (M) Sdn. Bhd.
Ground Floor, No.112-114 Jalan Pudu, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel: (60-3)201 8888 Fax: (60-3)201 3268
E-mail: ctsmy@po.jaring.my

China Travel Service (Korea) Co., Ltd.
92, Da-Dong, Chung-Ku, Seoul, Korea.
Tel: (82-2)7523399 Fax: (82-2)7573737

'99 一卡在手 走遍神州

WITH SUCH A CARD AS YOU TRAVEL IN CHINA

CFHC 中国名酒店组织第九届年会
THE 9TH ANNUAL MEETING OF CHINA FAMOUS HOTEL CORPORATION
1999
Kunming
锦华大酒店

北京饭店
Beijing Hotel
北京 Beijing

东方宾馆
Dong Fang Hotel
广州 Guangzhou

锦江宾馆
Jinjiang Hotel
四川 Sichuan

丽景大酒店
Regent Hotel
大连 Dalian

西湖大酒店
Lakeside Hotel
福州 Fuzhou

榕湖饭店
Rong Hu Hotel
桂林 Guilin

京港酒店
Hotel Concourse
香港 HongKong

金陵饭店
Jinling Hotel
南京 Nanjing

金海湾大酒店
Golden Gulf Hotel
汕头 Shantou

锦江饭店
Jin Jiang Hotel
上海 Shanghai

深圳湾大酒店
Shenzhen Bay Hotel
深圳 Shenzhen

天津水晶宫饭店
The Crystal Palace Hotel
天津 Tianjin

悦华酒店
Mandarin Hotel
厦门 Xiamen

石景山旅游中心
Paradise Hill Hotel
珠海 Zhuhai

香港中国旅行社有限公司
HongKong/CTS
香港 HongKong

锦华大酒店
King World Hotel
昆明 Kunming

总统酒店
Hotel Presidente
澳门 Macau

海天大酒店
Hai Tian Hotel
青岛 Qingdao

SUNSHINE
重庆宾馆
Chongqing Guest House
重庆 Chongqing

杭州友好饭店
Friendship Hotel
杭州 Hangzhou

中山国际酒店
Zhongshan
International Hotel
中山 Zhongshan

金都饭店
Kingdom Hotel
沈阳 Shenyang

南中国大酒店
South China Hotel
三亚 Sanya

东港大酒店
East Seaport Hotel
宁波 Ningbo

武汉亚洲大酒店
Wuhan Asia Hotel
武汉 Wuhan

康乐园大酒店
Kangle Garden Resort
兴隆 Xinglong

寰岛泰得大酒店
Huandao Tide Hotel
海口 Haikou

银城酒店
Hotel Silverland
东莞 Dongguan

泰山华侨大厦
Taishan Overseas
Chinese Hotel
泰安 Tai 'an

威海卫大厦
Weihaiwei Mansion
威海 Weihai

银海酒店
Silver Sea Hotel
湛江 Zhanjiang

名门饭店
Noble Hotel
长春 Changchun

常州大酒店
Changzhou Grand Hotel
常州 Changzhou

河北宾馆
Hebei Grand Hotel
石家庄 Shijiazhuang

锡州宾馆
Xizhou Hotel
无锡 Wuxi

贵州饭店
Guizhou Park Hotel
贵阳 Guiyang

山西大酒店
Shanxi Grand Hotel
太原 Taiyuan

富华大酒店
Fuwah Hotel
潍坊 Weifang

明园新都酒店
Mingyuan Xindu Hotel
南宁 Nanning

丹东国际酒店
Dandong International Hotel
丹东 Dandong

一张 VIP 卡在手， 39 间酒店手拉手。为尊敬的客人们，提供贵宾级的享受！

凡是持有“中国名酒店组织”统一的 CFHC 卡的人士，将可在中国内地、香港、澳门等 39 个地区的 39 间酒店内，荣誉地获得贵宾级的礼遇、享受和优惠。欢迎垂询、光临。

with a VIP card in your hand,39 hotels offer you,our honourable guests,VIP-grade enjoyment!

Holders of the unified CFHC card of CHINA FAMOUS HOTEL CORPORATION will accord the bearer a VIP-grade courteous reception and preferential treatment in the 39 famous hotels in the 39 cities.You will find everything convenient and comfortable be it in accommodation,recreation,trade of good service. We always welcome inquiries and your patonage of our 39 member hotels.

中国名酒店组织秘书处：广州东方宾馆 The Secretariat of CHINA FAMOUS HOTEL CORPORATION:Guangzhou Dong Fang Hotel
传真 Fax:(86-20) 86673980 电话 Tel:(86-20) 86669900-7968 网址 http://www.C-F-H-C.com.

JIN JIANG HOTEL

where Shanghai's past and future are ever present.

Swimming Pool

At the heart of Shanghai, sits the stately Jin Jiang Hotel. Here, venerable European buildings surround a lush, wooded garden, and house some of the most morden facilities available in Shanghai.The hotel is proud to have received about 300 state leaders and government heads since its opening. Its incomparably attentive service has won high praise from guests from both home and abroad. The Cathay building of Jin Jiang Hotel which built in 1929, integrates the traditional classic Gothic style. In 1999, the Cathay Building was renovated as a five star hotel. It takes on once again an elegant look and combine the traditional classic style with up-to-date facilities.

Jin Jiang Grand Hall witnessed numerous historic events including the [Sino-American Joint Communique]. After rebuilding, the new Jin Jiang Grand Hall is ready to provide simply the best in service and hospitality with the state-of-the art facilities.

Jin Jiang's food has a history dating back to the 30's and its Sichuan and Cantonese cuisine has become perfected after more than a half-century of experience.

70 years later, Jin Jiang Hotel--where Shanghai's past and future are ever present.

Grosvenor House

Lobby in Cathay Building

VIP Room in Jin Jiang Grand Hall

锦江饭店

JIN JIANG HOTEL

SHANGHAI

59 Mao Ming Road(S) Shanghai China   Tel: (86) 21-62582582 62534242   Fax: (86) 21-64725588 Post Code: 200020   http://www.jinjianghotelshanghai.com   E-mail: jinjiang@public2.sta.net.cn

中國天津金世集團

China Tianjin Golden World Group

天津市中津製藥廠　金世製藥有限公司

金世集團旗下企業目前有八個，涉及醫藥、化工、房地產等多種產業門類，總資產超過2.4億元人民幣。

金世集團製藥企業是高科技現代化的大型企業，擁有強大的優秀醫藥科研人員和技術人員，設備精良，工藝先進，產品涉及醫藥製劑、生物製品、保健品，原料藥等多種領域，目前集團公司正投資8,000多萬元進行中津製藥廠主打產品維生素 B_1 的1,200噸擴產及GMP改造工程，並進行ISO9000系列認証工作。

金世集團正以不懈的努力迎接新世紀的挑戰！

Tianjin Zhongjin Pharmaceutical Factory
Golden World Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.

Under Golden World Group there are eight subsidiary enterprises specialising in many fields, including pharmaceutical, chem-engineering and real estate, with a capital over 240 million yuan.

Golden World Group's Pharmaceutical subsidiary, a big, modern hi-tech enterprise, is staffed by prominent researchers and technicians and equipped with advanced facilities and takes pride of advanced workmanship. Its wide range of productions includes pharmaceutical preparations, biological products, health products and pharmaceutical raw materials. At present, the group is investing an amount of more than 80 million yuan to increase its annual production of Vitamin B_1, the major product of the factory, to 1,200 tons and to carry out the GMP transformation project. Meanwhile, it will have its ISO9000 certification.

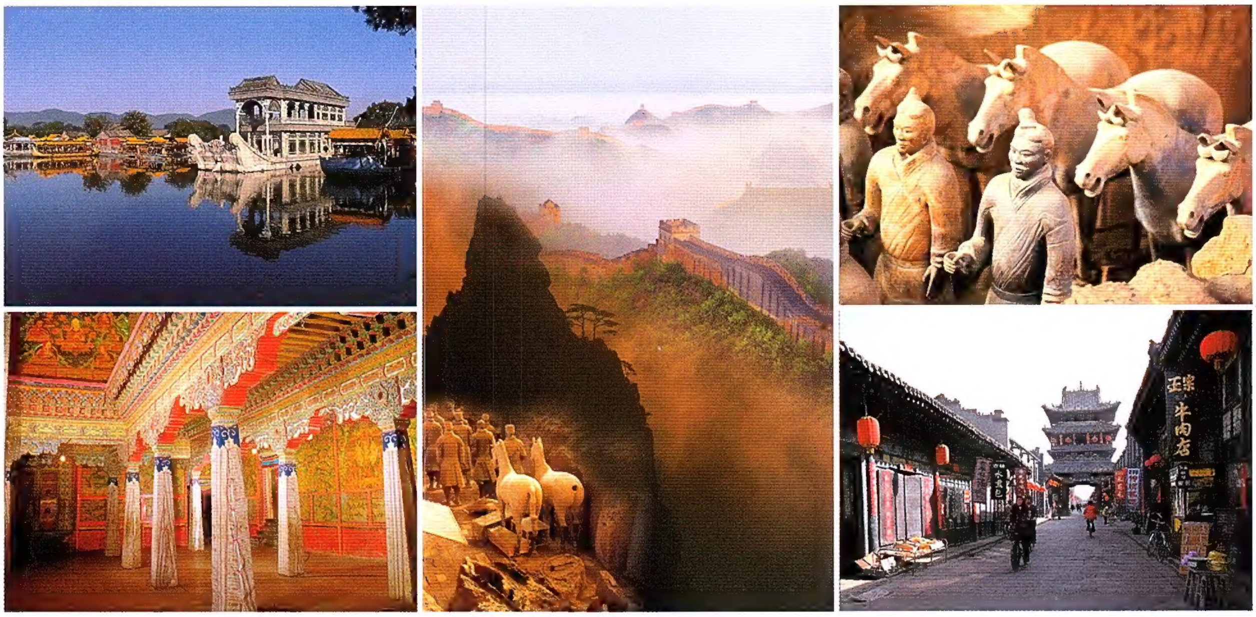
Tianjin Golden World Group is ready to welcome new challenges in the new century with her persevering efforts!

地址：天津市解放南路口外環線17號橋
Add：17 Bridge Outer-City Ring Road, Jiefang Road South, Tianjin, China
董事長兼總經理 President and General Manager：宋富智 Song Fu Zhi
電話 Tel ：(22) 8824 2966　8824 2646　8824 1225
傳真 Fax ：(22) 8824 2857　8824 1317
電掛 Cable：8916
郵政編碼 Postcode：300381
電子郵件 E-mail：jinshi@mail.tjgl.com.cn

China
CHINA TOURISM

CONTENTS

No. 233 December 1999



11 From the Editor
The Incomparable Heritage

12 Mail Box

13 Update

14 World Heritage in China

16 Map of World Heritage Sites in China

18 Luxurious Imperial Structures: Symbols of Supreme Power

Grand Palace of the Ming and Qing
— World's Largest Palace Group

Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang
— World's Largest Imperial Tomb

Potala Palace
— Highest Palace in the World

Temple of Heaven
— World's Largest Temple for Worshipping Heaven

36 Venerable Mountains: Union of Nature and Man

Mount Taishan
— Sacred Mountain Worshipped by Emperors

Mount Huangshan
— Rare Pines and Jagged Peaks

Mount Lushan
— Famous Summer Resort in Modern China

50 Landmarks of Ancient Civilisation: Defence Works, Residences and Cities

The Great Wall
— an Incomparable Defence Work

Ruins at Zhoukoudian
— Home of Peking Man

Pingyao
— Best Preserved Ancient Walled City

Lijiang
— Simple and Mysterious Old Town on the Highland

BEAUTIFYING LIFE AND CHALLENGE TO THE FUTURE WITH ZHEJIANG ARTS AND CRAFTS

ZHEJIANG ARTS & CRAFTS

浙江省工藝品進出口公司所屬的日用工藝品分公司，專業從事帽子、手套、圍巾等商品的出口，皮手套、滑雪手套、針織手套、各種面料的繡花運動帽、冬帽等商品已遍佈世界各地，年平均出口額已達1,300萬美元。下屬一批專業的生產企業，擁有先進電腦打卡機、製版機、繡花機、高頭車等專業設備和專業技術人員，能確保商品的優質和準時交貨。歡迎您接洽、訂購，我們將盡心盡力為您服務。

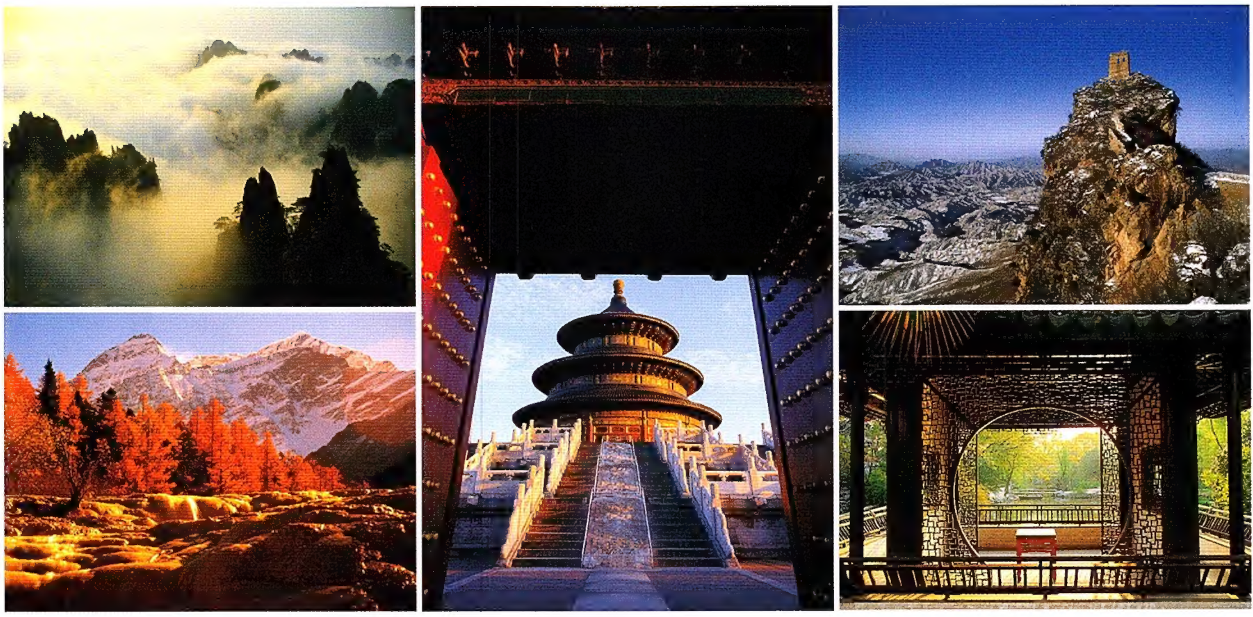
The Daily-use Handicrafts Branch of Zhejiang Arts & Crafts Imp. & Exp. Corp. is a specialised trading company which exports all kinds of gloves and mittens, caps and hats, scarves and the like. Its leather gloves, skiing mittens, knitting gloves and mittens, embroidered sports caps made of different materials as well as winter hats and caps sell well abroad, bringing in an average export value of US$13 million annually. Its subordinate enterprises possess advanced computer-controlled punchers, plate-making machines, embroidering machines and high-head sewing machines operated by qualified workers and technicians. Therefore the quality and prompt shipment of the company's products are ensured. Inquiries are welcome and we are always at clients disposal.

Add:12N Zhongshan Road Hangzhou China Postcode:310003 Tel:(0571)7063387
Fax:(0571)7063838 E-mail:zjart@mail.hz.zj.cn Contact Person:Tianen Lei

CHINA TOURISM

CONTENTS

No. 233 December 1999



66 **Religious Culture and Art: Crystallisation of Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism**

Mogao Grottoes
— Mecca of Artists Worldwide

Ancient Building Complex on Wudang Mountain
— Demonstration of Classical Chinese Architecture

Confucius Temple, Cemetery and Mansion
— Home of the Founder of Confucianism

Mount Emei and Leshan Giant Buddha
— Divine Light and Largest Buddha Sculpture

84 **Classic Beauty of Gardens: Eastern Cultural Concepts and Aesthetic Philosophy**

The Mountain Resort and Eight Outer Temples in Chengde
— Largest Royal Garden Extant in the World

Classic Gardens in Suzhou
— Seclusion for Scholars and Retired Officials

The Summer Palace
— an Imperial Garden of Refined Landscapes

98 **Wonders of Nature: Landscapes with Character**

Wulingyuan
— Topographical Turmoil of 3,000 Peaks

Huanglong
— Karst Landform of Spectacular Beauty

Jiuzhaigou
— a Magic World of Colours

112 **Next Issue**

English Edition

China TOURISM

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

China
SHANGHAI — A HAPPY BLEND OF OLD AND NEW
BOGDA PEAK: A WORLD OF SNOW IN SUMMER
BIG GATE CRABS OF YANGCHENG LAKE
221
China
THE GREAT WALL — ENDLESS LEGENDS
YUNNAN'S FLOWER VILLAGE
218

Subscribe now to make sure this beautiful magazine is delivered to your home every month and get a free Chinese classical music CD or a free copy of one of our travel books.

Overseas Subscription Rates

Region	Surface Mail		Air Mail	
	1 year	2 years	1 year	2 years
PRC, Macau and Taiwan	HK$436/US$56	HK$820/US$105	HK$690/US$89	HK$1328/US$171
Asian countries (except Japan)	US$66	US$125	US$89	US$171
Japan and non-Asian countries	US$68	US$129	US$102	US$197

☐ Additional charge for Registered Mail HK$156/US$20 per year.

Hong Kong Subscription Rates (Free Postage)

1 year 12 issues HK$296/US$38
2 years 24 issues HK$540/US$69

Yes! Please enter my subscription for the term indicated below.

I would like to subscribe to *China Tourism* starting from ________ (month) 1999 for

☐ 1 year, please send me a free Chinese classical music CD.

☐ 2 years, please send me a free copy of

(Please choose one) ☐ *Focus on Xinjiang* ☐ *Focus on Shaanxi* ☐ *Focus on Beijing*

Subscriber's Information

Surname: (Mr./Mrs.) ____________________ Given Name: ____________________

Address: ____

____

Country: ____________________ Tel / Fax: ____________________

Method of Payment

Total payment (Book price + Postage): HK$ __________ / US$ __________

☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to **"HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS"**

☐ Please debit my credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Card no.: ____________________ Expiry date: ____________________

Signature: ____

Return to : HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS (Circulation Department), 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.
Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8196

BEST BUY BOOKS

Guizhou in Southwest China is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huangguoshu Waterfalls, the biggest of its kind in China, is one of the province's most frequented scenic spots. Limestone caves filled with imposing stone formations also adorn Guizhou with a magic touch. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its natural beauty and culture that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination.

Focus on Guizhou

120 pages in hardcover and paperback format

Original Price:
HK$150(HC)/$95(PB)/US$19.50(HC)/$12.50(PB)

Discounted Price:
HK$120(HC)/$76(PB)/US$15.50(HC)/$9.90(PB)

The Irresistible Attraction of Hong Kong

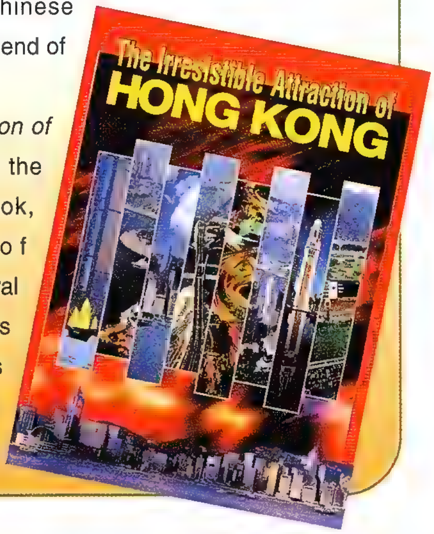
112 pages in hardcover format

Original Price: HK$200 / US$26

Discounted Price: HK$120 / US$15.50

Hong Kong is one of the world's most important financial and trade centres and a most favoured tourist destination in Asia. There are many irresistible attractions in Hong Kong to enhance a tourist's stay: a magnificent harbour view; tranquil, peaceful outlying islands; a rich nightlife; and a duty-free market with goods from all over the world. And above all, what attracts the traveller most is probably the international metropolis' characteristic atmosphere which, while full of Chinese tradition, is actually a blend of different cultures.

The Irresistible Attraction of Hong Kong shows you the city's energetic outlook, wide choice of entertainment and cultural activities, as well as its colourful scenic spots and rich heritage.



Title	Original Price	Discounted Price	Copy(s)	Total	Postage (per copy)
Focus on Guizhou (HC)	HK$150 / US$19.50	HK$120 / US$15.50			☐ Hong Kong Surface mail.....HK$11.50 ☐ Macau, PRC, Taiwan Surface mail.....HK$20 / US$3 ☐ Overseas (Asia except Japan) Surface mail.....HK$32 / US$4 ☐ Overseas (Non-Asia and Japan) Surface mail.....HK$34 / US$4.40 ☐ Additional HK$13 / US$1.70 for Registered mail
Focus on Guizhou (PB)	HK$95 / US$12.50	HK$76 / US$9.90			
The Irresistible Attraction of Hong Kong	HK$200 / US$26	HK$120 / US$15.50			

Name : ______________________ (Mr/Ms/Mrs) Tel/Fax (Day time) : ______________

Address: ____

Payment: Book Price + Postage : HK$ ______________ / US$ ______________

☐ Cheque enclosed: Made payable to **"Hong Kong China Tourism Press"**

☐ Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Cardholder's name: ______________________ Card No. : ______________________

Expiry Date: ______________________ Signature: ______________________

Please return the order form to: HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS (Subscription Department)
24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. Or fax to: (852) 2561 8196 Enquiry: (852) 2561 8001

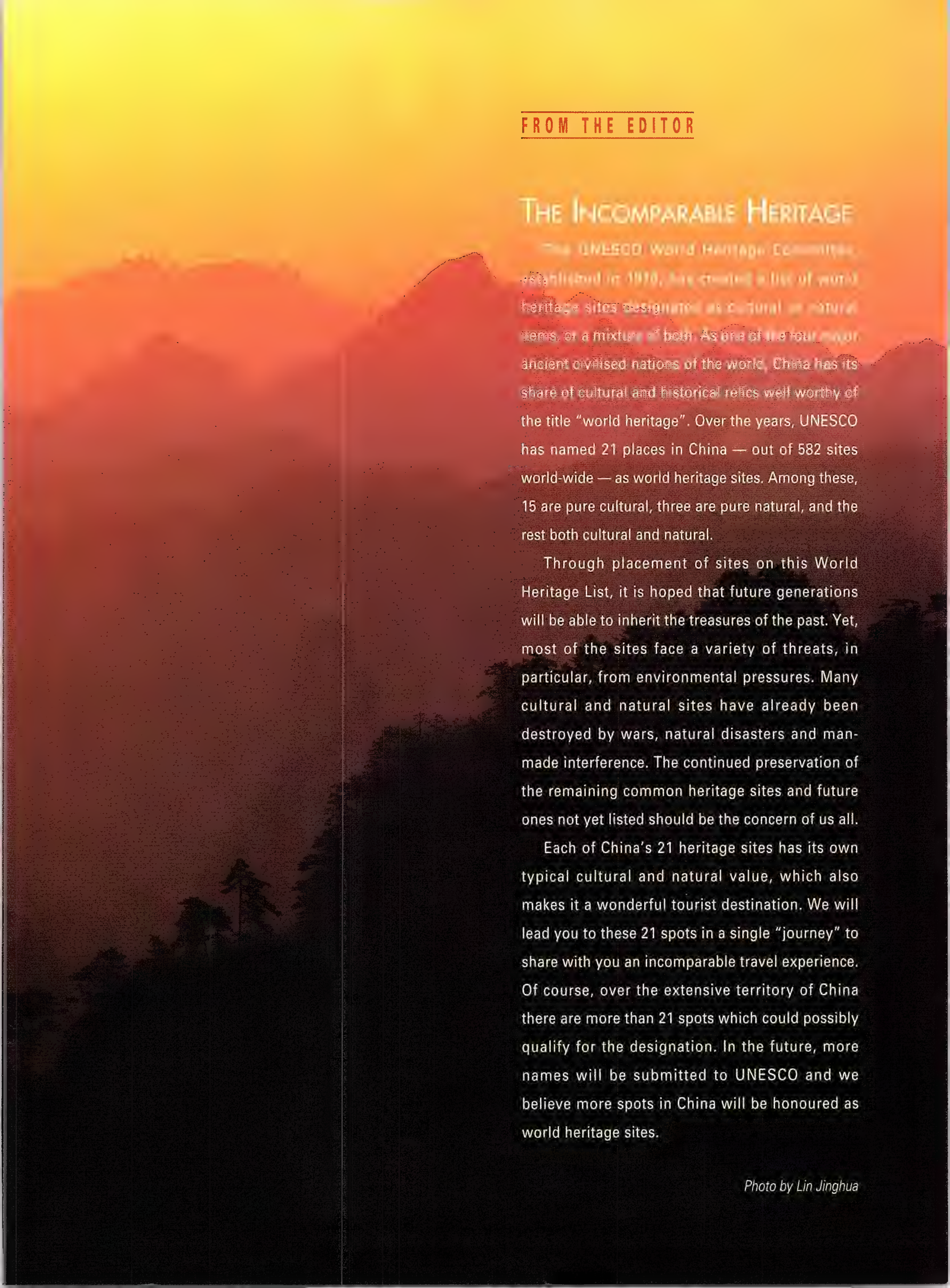
[illegible]	[illegible] Ma Chi Man, Ma Lin, Wong Tak Hoi James T. Wu, Howard Young
Director	Tchan Fou-li
Vice Director & Editor-in-Chief	Wang Miao
General Manager	Liu Yang
Chief Executive Officer, Executive Editor-in-Chief	C. K. Tong
Vice General Manager	Liu Pit Mui
Vice Editors-in-Chief	Lai Chung For, Tu Nai Hsien, Chan Yat Nin
Director of Reporting Dept.	Shi Baoxiu
Reporters	Xie Guanghui, Huang Yanhong
Editor	Iris Wong
Director of English Editorial Dept.	Gloria Shang
Editors	Patricia Hutton, Jess Tang
Vice Director of Art Dept.	Norris Tong
Senior Designer	Joan Leung
Designers	Y. Y. Lau, W. Y. Yuen, M. Y. Li, S. Y. Leung
Assistant Designer	Lily Lam
China Account Managers	Yu Xifan, Kung Man Kei, Tung Wai Ning
Hong Kong Account Manager	Wesley K. M. Kwong
Manager of Sales & Marketing Dept.	Connie Lee
Business Development Manager	James Jiang
Director of Accounts & Administration Dept.	Kathy Wong

Publisher: **HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS**
24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8057 2561 8196
E-mail address: chinat@hkstar.com
Editorial Dept., Business Dept., Advertising Dept., Sales Dept. Tel: (852) 2561 8001
China Tourism Photo Library Tel: (852) 2561 8001
Hong Kong China Tourism Ltd. (Licence No. 351850) Tel: (852) 2516 9228
Printer: **C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.**
C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road, Tai Po, N.T. Tel: (852) 2666 4988

Agencies: **Australia** Gordon and Gotch Ltd., 25-37 Huntingdale Road, Burwood, Victoria 3125 • **Belgium** Sun Wah Supermarket • **Brazil** Comercio Impotdora Konmin Ltd. • **Canada** Sun Wa Bookstore, Toronto; Van China Trade Centre Ltd., Vancouver • **China** National Publications Import & Export Corp., Beijing • **England** Guanghwa Company Ltd., London • **France** Europasie S.A.R.L., Paris • **Holland** Ming Ya, Amsterdam • **Hong Kong** Foreign Press Distributors Ltd. • **Japan** Koyosha Co. Ltd., Tokyo • **Macau** Starlight Bookstore Ltd.; The World Book Company; Plaza Cultural Macau Ltd. • **Malaysia** Pustaka Lively, Tawau, Sabah • **Singapore** International Book(s) Pte. Ltd. • **Thailand** Chew Hong Service Ltd., Bangkok • **The Philippines** Good Quality Merchandising, Manila • **U.S.A.** China Periodical Distribution, Los Angeles; Oriental Culture Enterprise Co., New York; China Daily Distribution Corp., New York

China Advertising License: ICAD006
News-stand price: HK$38
Printed in Hong Kong

Copyright reserved



FROM THE EDITOR

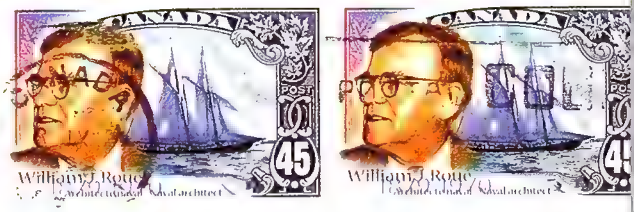
The Incomparable Heritage

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee, established in 1976, has created a list of world heritage sites designated as cultural or natural items, or a mixture of both. As one of the four major ancient civilised nations of the world, China has its share of cultural and historical relics well worthy of the title "world heritage". Over the years, UNESCO has named 21 places in China — out of 582 sites world-wide — as world heritage sites. Among these, 15 are pure cultural, three are pure natural, and the rest both cultural and natural.

Through placement of sites on this World Heritage List, it is hoped that future generations will be able to inherit the treasures of the past. Yet, most of the sites face a variety of threats, in particular, from environmental pressures. Many cultural and natural sites have already been destroyed by wars, natural disasters and man-made interference. The continued preservation of the remaining common heritage sites and future ones not yet listed should be the concern of us all.

Each of China's 21 heritage sites has its own typical cultural and natural value, which also makes it a wonderful tourist destination. We will lead you to these 21 spots in a single "journey" to share with you an incomparable travel experience. Of course, over the extensive territory of China there are more than 21 spots which could possibly qualify for the designation. In the future, more names will be submitted to UNESCO and we believe more spots in China will be honoured as world heritage sites.

Photo by Lin Jinghua



This page is your chance to tell us exactly what you think about us. We welcome all criticism, suggestions and questions from our readers anytime. And we would like to thank those readers who have already written in — we truly value your input. Please post, fax or E-mail your letters and comments to us (details at the bottom of this page).

LETTERS

I am a regular reader of every issue of your magazine. I enjoy looking at the excellent photographs of many of the out-of-the-way places in China reproduced in it. What I like most is the "photography page" in some of the issues. The articles are also interesting. There are, however, some stories which seem to have been written for Chinese readers only, because the authors often take it for granted that all the readers know about the historical, geographical and cultural backgrounds of the stories. A non-Chinese reader often finds it difficult to understand many of the things mentioned in the stories. If the writers can write with the non-Chinese readers in mind, I am sure your magazine will be read by many more readers in the world.

Tang Bowen
Beijing, China

Editor's comments:

We endeavour to fill in the gaps for non-Chinese readers with explanations of the history and culture, but sometimes space is the culprit. Too long an explanation means we would have to delete some of the other interesting information. Our new-style maps, with both English and Chinese characters identifying the sites, should help readers find the locations easier now.

I appreciate your magazine as a truly Chinese-flavoured (rather than western-interpreted) vision of Chinese interests and issues. Sometimes I still really miss China, even though I've been gone 17 years. Thank you for reminding me of its beauties and wonders.

Jan Levine Thal
Wisconsin, USA
Former English polisher of
Beijing Review

China Tourism brings me pleasure and information as an "armchair traveller" until I become a real-life traveller in China again after surgery. The detailed descriptions and maps embellished with beautiful photographs bring the actual China travel experience right into my living room.

Thank you for celebrating the new China's 50th birthday so beautifully with your Nov. issue! The cover set the festival feeling and the feature story carried through including the capital's new look with excellent photographs and descriptions. While Tian'anmen is the focus, I was happy to see the hutongs as they have been restored, followed up by Beijing's ancient glory, the latter best portrayed in pictures only as we'd best say goodbye to feudalism! Hotel and flight information is appreciated, as are the maps. These need constant watching to keep up with the ongoing changes. I filled in the section between Chegongzhuang and Dongsishitiao with the new and very beautiful Pingan Avenue renovated in Chinese style. Several of my neighbours here at the Friendship Hotel are on my list to be introduced to *China Tourism.*

Betty Chandler
Beijing, China

Please send your letters to:
Hong Kong China Tourism Press, English Department, 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2561 8057, 2561 8196 E-mail: chinat@hkstar.com

Confucius Platform Restored

One of Confucius' 72 faithful students, Yan Ji, who had studied 10 years under the great educator and philosopher, established a school in Yuyang, today's Qianyang in Shaanxi Province. As a symbol of his gratitude to, and respect for his teacher, Yan built an earthen platform in the school. It was made to face Confucius' native land Qufu in the ancient Kingdom of Lu in present-day Shandong Province.

This 2,500-year-old platform was listed under provincial protection in 1957. The renovation, which was started last year with both government funding and private donations, has now been completed.

Sightseeing Boats to the Sea, Dalian

Dalian is a modern and beautiful sea port in Northeast China. Recently, more tourist programmes have added to its attractions. Two large sightseeing boats have been put into operation so that visitors to Dalian can explore more of the beauty on the sea. Sailing off from the Xinghai Park in the city, travellers can enjoy a sea tour in the bay. Besides the reefs of various shapes, they can also gaze at colourful corals, sea cucumbers, conches and fishes of different varieties through special glass-windows on the boat.

New Tourist Programmes on Wudang Mountain

An increasing number of tourists are visiting Wudang Mountain, one of the 21 World Heritage sites in China with large clusters of temple buildings, and also a famous Taoist land, that has been famous for its Neijia-style martial arts since ancient times. To meet the varying demands of visitors, several new tourist programmes have been developed. They include the body-building tour on Wudang Mountain, adventure tour deep in the mountains, Taoist scenic spots tour and folklore tour.

In addition, the nearby Danjiangkou Reservoir, which is claimed as the largest man-made reservoir in Asia, has also opened to tourists. Taking a boat, visitors can tour on the vast water surface to see the Wenbi Pagoda, Cangliang Tower and the snow-capped Fangshan Mountain.

Ancient Conch Fossil, Guangxi

A huge fossilised sea conch with an estimated age of 200 million years was found recently by a fisherman in the Yongjiang River in Southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The iron-red conch fossil weighs 60 kilograms. It is 88 centimetres long and 56 centimetres wide, with the thickest part measuring 20 centimetres. The current area of Guangxi was a stretch of sea some 300 million years ago. Over time, as the sea was turned into land, the conch apparently stayed behind, and later was washed into the Yongjiang River.

Noodles Art Hall Opened in Guilin

Guilin is worldwide famous for its extraordinarily charming karst land formations and clear waters. But the city also has something else to offer — its local-flavour snacks represented by the rice-flour noodles. While visiting Guilin's picturesque landscapes, few tourists would miss the chance to taste the rice-flour noodles. Now a new tourist attraction featuring this local speciality, the Guilin Rice-Flour Noodles Art Hall, has opened to the public.

Located by the Ronghu Lake, one of the scenic spots in the city, the hall can accommodate 800 diners at one time. By joining in the rice-flour noodles culture tour, visitors will have breakfast of noodles at the hall and then visit the birthplaces of rice-flour noodles, such as Caijiapu, which is famous for its spicy rice-flour noodles, and a rice-flour noodles mill. In the evening, after a dinner focussing on rice-flour noodles, a series of folk performances will entertain the guests.

Beijing-Shanghai, the Busiest Air Route

The air route between Beijing, the capital of China, and the country's biggest metropolis, Shanghai, has become the busiest air route on the mainland of China. Statistics show that during the first half of 1999, there were 6,287 flights with a total of 974,858 passengers flying along this route, which is doubtless the largest number among all Chinese domestic air routes. At present, this air route is operated by six domestic airlines with 35 flights from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day. Other busy air routes in China include the ones flying from Shanghai to Guangzhou and Shenzhen; the former is the capital of Guangdong Province in South China, and the latter, a Special Economic Zone bordering Hong Kong.

Monkey Centre to Be Built in Hubei

A breeding centre for Golden Monkey (*Rhinopithecus roxellanae*) will soon be built in Central China's Hubei Province so as to protect this endangered species. With the approval of the State Forestry Administration, the site has been chosen in the Shennongjia Nature Reserve in western Hubei Province, and construction has begun.

PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL • WORLD HERITAGE • PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

WORLD HERITAGE IN CHINA

The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, founded in 1976, is an authoritative body examining and approving world heritage sites in all countries. The World Heritage consists of two categories: cultural heritage and natural heritage. Cultural heritage refers to buildings and sites with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, and cultural anthropological values; natural heritage refers to the natural, ecological and geographical structures, the environment of endangered wildlife and plants, as well as areas with scientific or aesthetic values that should be preserved. Up to now, 582 items of cultural and natural heritages in the world have been listed in the programme, including the 21 historical and natural sites spread over 14 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in China. More are on the waiting list for approval by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee requires that every site of heritage which applies for examination keeps or restores its original condition. The purpose of the World Heritage Foundation set up by UNESCO is to provide international assistance to the countries with such heritages to protect the rare and irreplaceable property of the human race.

According to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, these heritages will be protected by all UNESCO members, and even during war they should not become the targets of military attacks. The convention also stipulates that the World Heritage Committee has the responsibility to provide experts and technical personnel as well as equipment to relevant countries, and the member countries have the right to require international economic assistance for the protection of the cultural and natural heritages on their land.

In this special issue, we introduce the 21 World Heritage sites in China, in the hope that you can enjoy the unique cultural relics and natural scenery, and better understand the ancient Chinese civilisation.

❽ Mogao Grottoes

❼ Pingyao

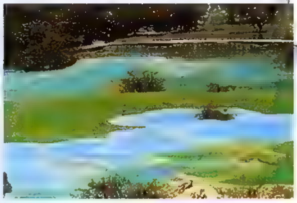
❻ The Summer Palace

❺ The Forbidden City

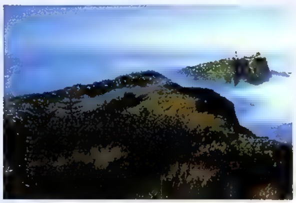
❹ The Great Wa

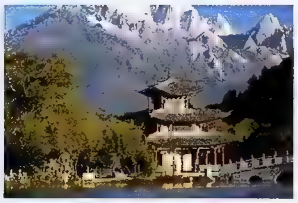
❾ Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang

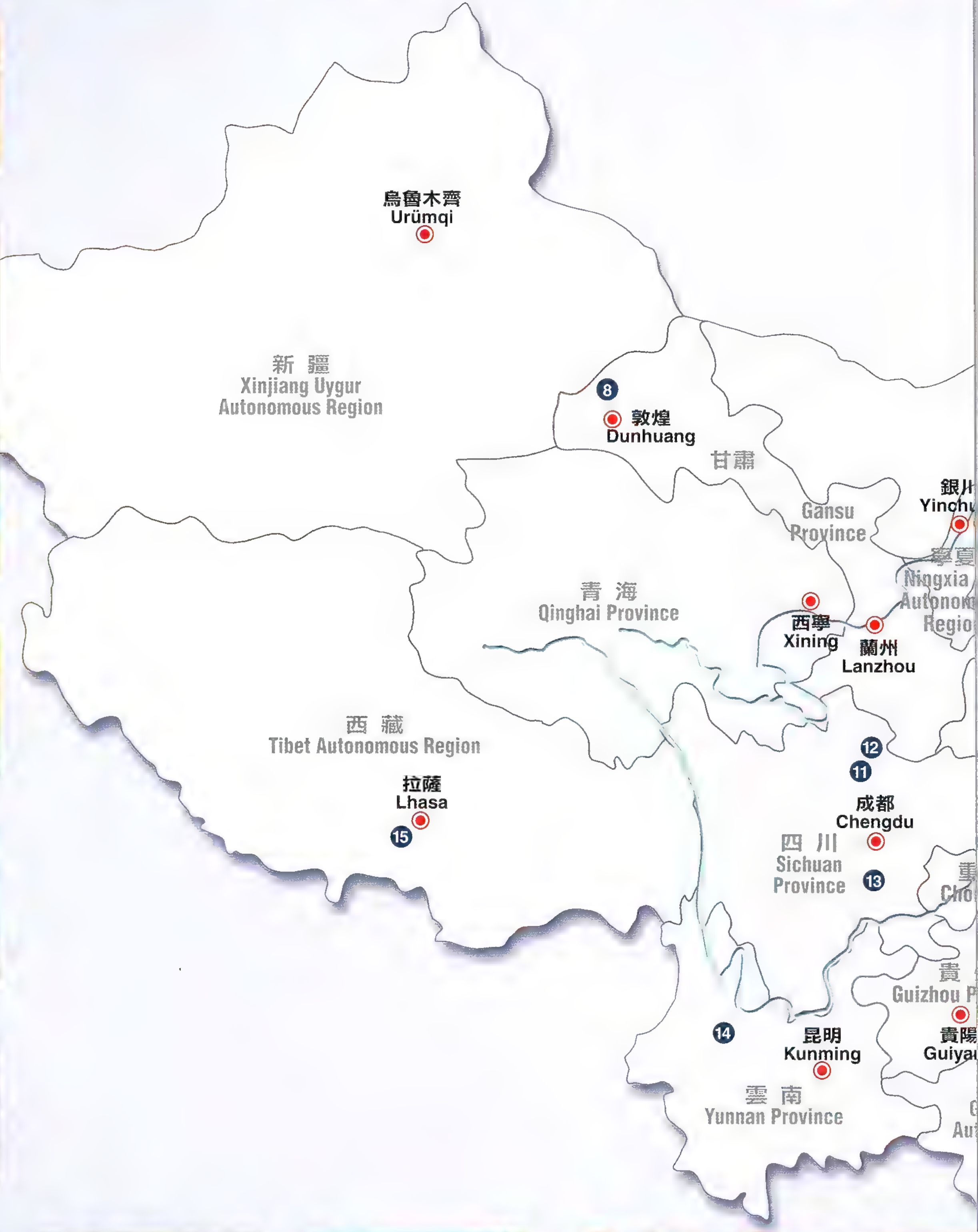
❿ Wulingyuan


⓫ Huanglong

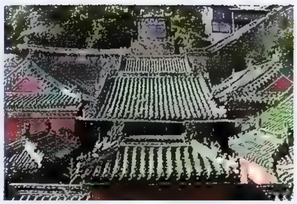
⓬ Jiuzhaigou


⓭ Mount Emei

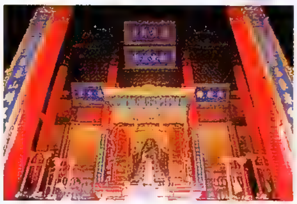

⓮ Lijiang

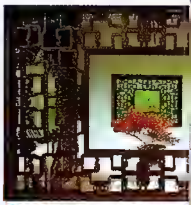


⓯ Potala Palace


⓰ Mount Wudang

⓱ Mount Taishan


⓲ Qufu

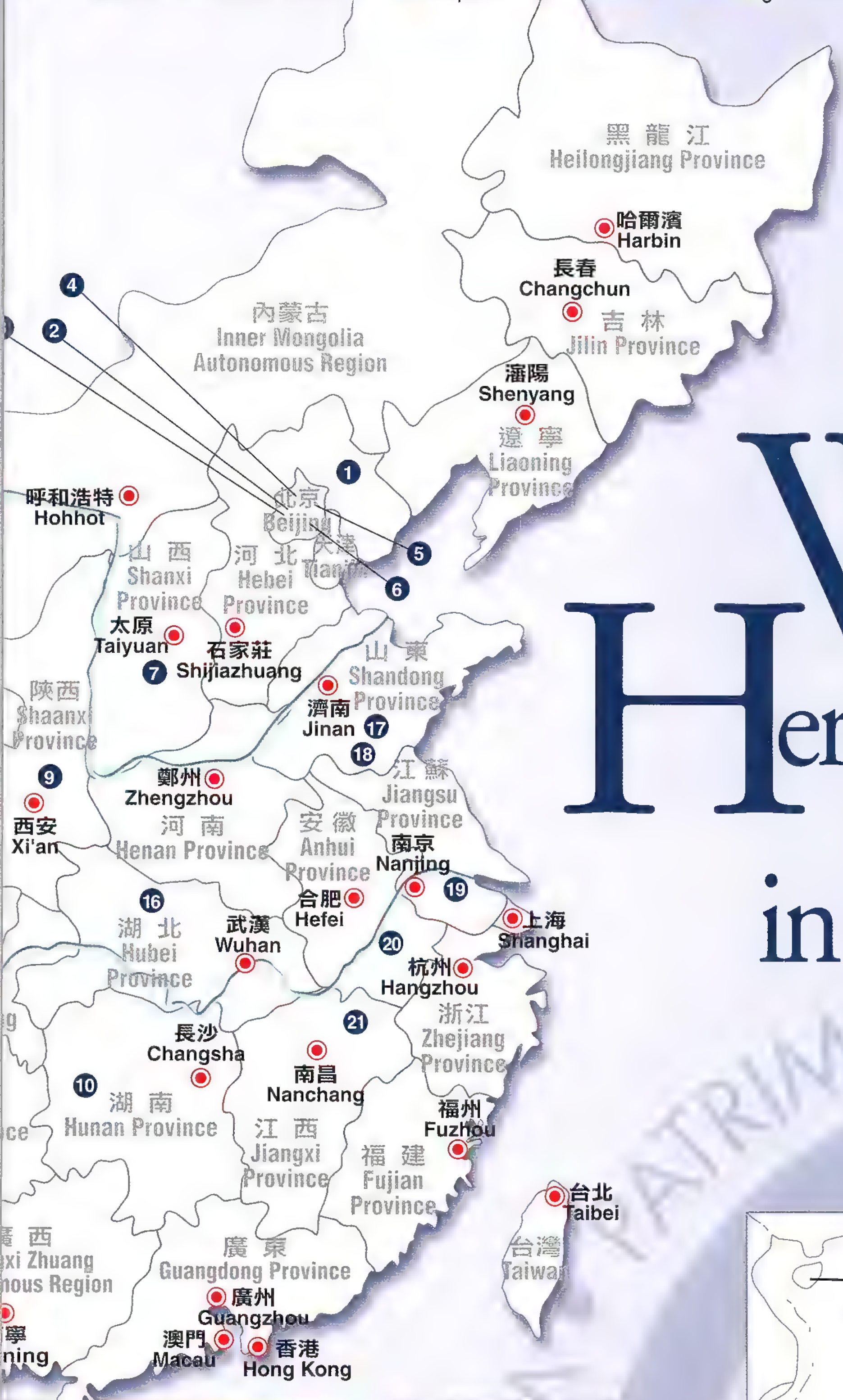

⓳ Suzhou Garde

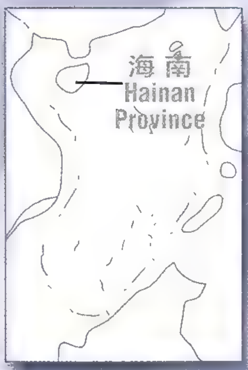
❸ Ruins of Zhoukoudian

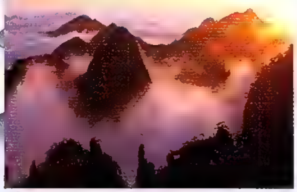
❷ Temple of Heaven

❶ Chengde Mountain Resort

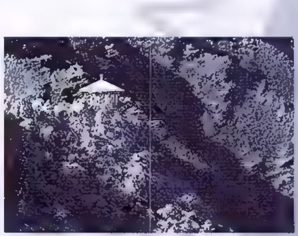
World Heritage Sites in China







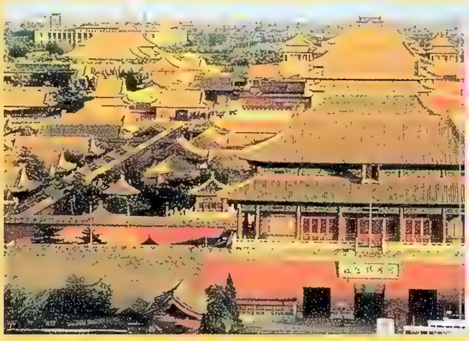
⓴ Mount Huangshan



㉑ Mount Lushan

Luxurious Imperial Structures

Symbols of Supreme Power



Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 11th Session of the Committee in 1987

As the seat of power for nearly five centuries, the Imperial Palace, or the Forbidden City, is a huge complex of splendid buildings with 9999.5 rooms containing period furniture and works of art. Together with its landscaped gardens, the palace constitutes a priceless testimony of Chinese imperial living during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

In feudal times, the emperor was regarded as the "Son of the Heaven" who administered earthly matters on behalf of the heavenly authority. Both the emperor's palaces and tombs were extremely large and luxurious structures. Today the emperors have long gone, yet standing in front of these imperial palaces and tombs that were formerly out of bounds to the common people, we can still feel their solemnity.

Although the emperor had supreme power on earth, as the "Son of the Heaven", his importance was still secondary to Heaven itself, and thus, the temple for worshipping Heaven was greatly revered.

Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor

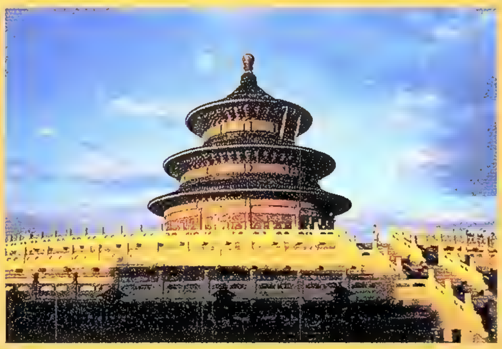
Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 11th Session of the Committee in 1987

Discovered only in 1974, this mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shihuang, who died in 210 B.C., is surrounded by an army of terracotta warriors in a complex designed to mirror the capital city. The life-size figures of warriors, horses, chariots, and weapons, all different, are historic masterpieces of realism.

Potala Palace

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 18th Session of the Committee in 1994

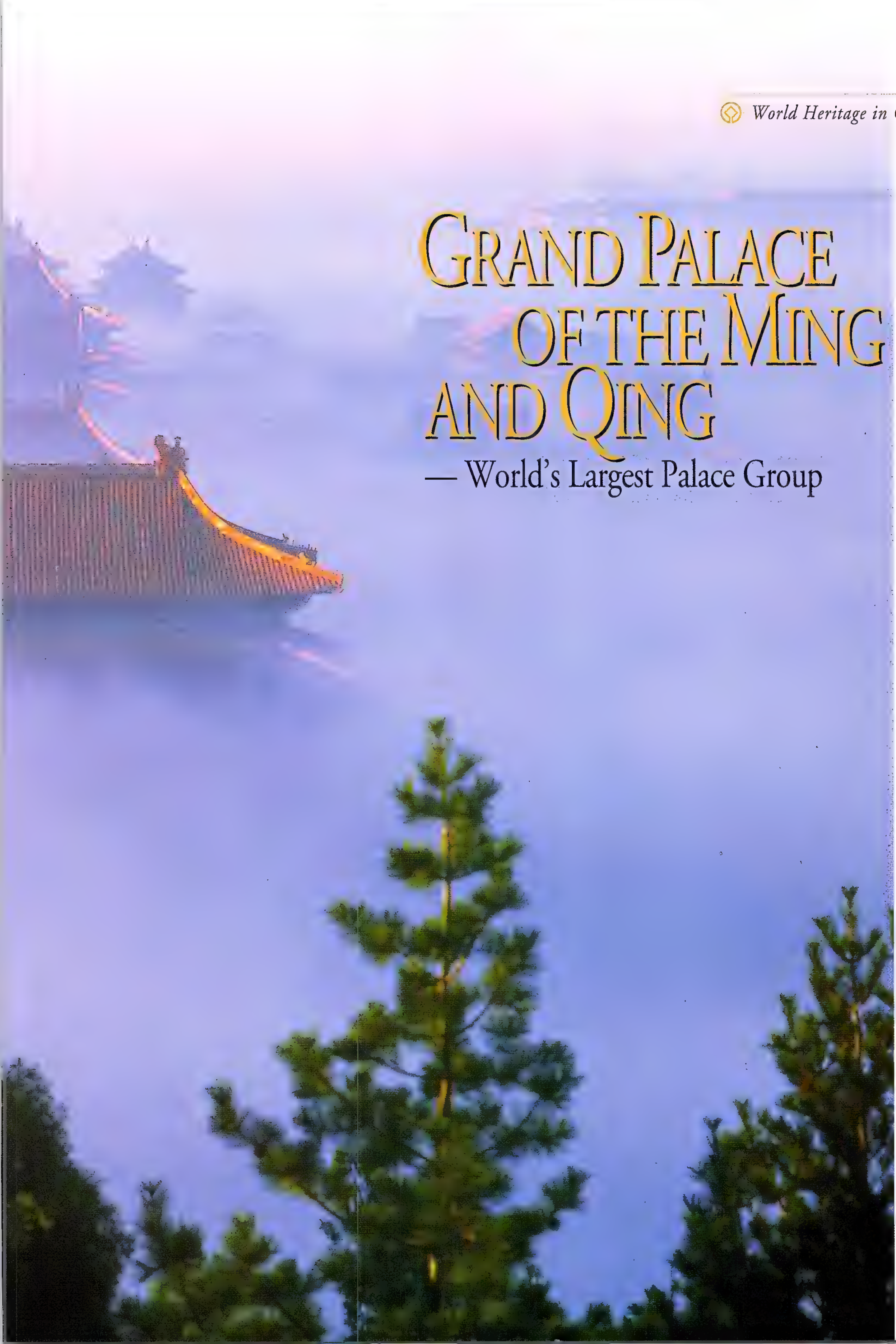
The Potala Palace, an administrative, religious and political complex, stands on a hill in the central Lhasa valley at an altitude of 3,700 metres. The beauty and originality of its architecture and ornate decorations, murals and tangkas, and its harmonious integration in a striking landscape add to its historic and religious interest.



Temple of Heaven

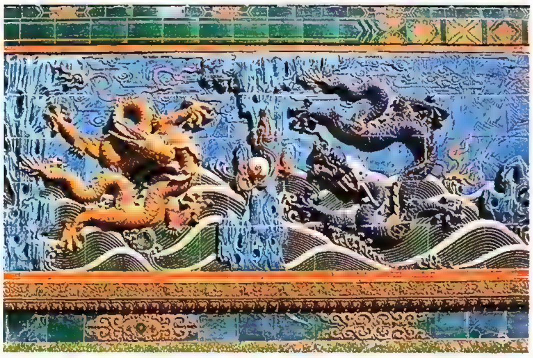
Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 22nd Session of the Committee in 1998

The Temple of Heaven, founded in the early 15th century, is a fine complex of masterful architecture and landscape design. Its layout and buildings symbolise the relationship between earth and heaven according to ancient Chinese beliefs and the special role played by the emperor. It was the place where the emperor worshipped the Heaven.



GRAND PALACE OF THE MING AND QING

— World's Largest Palace Group



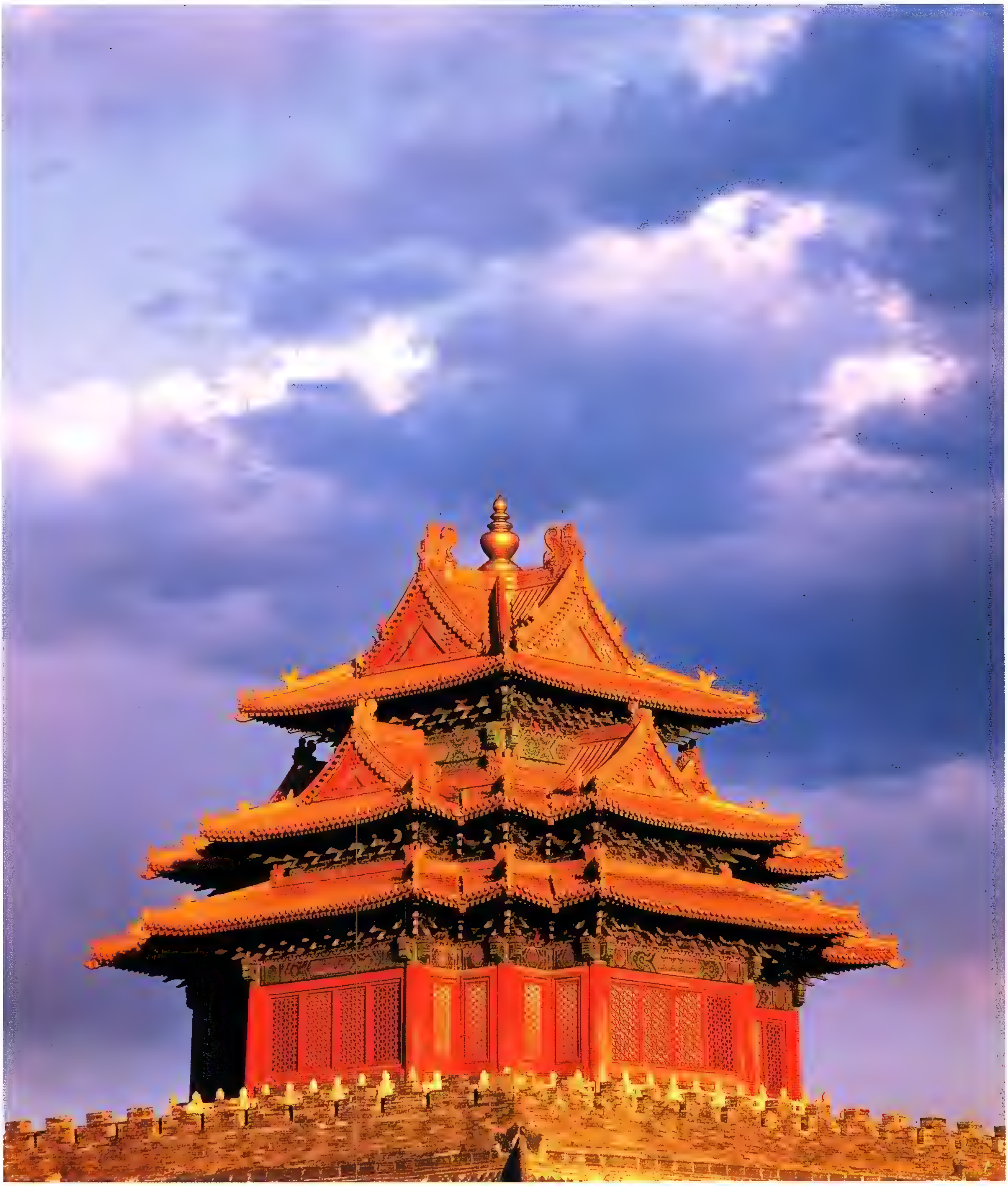
The Palace Museum, located at the centre of Beijing, was formerly the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Also called the Forbidden City or Danei, it is the largest existing palace group in the world. The construction of the palaces was started in 1407 in the reign of Ming-dynasty emperor Yongle and was basically completed in 1420. After Emperor Yongle, subsequent emperors expanded the palace complex. Over 491 years, 14 Ming emperors and 10 Qing emperors lived in the palace.

The Palace Museum has two sections: the southern outer section was the official court and the northern inner one was living quarters. All the buildings in both courts were built on a central axis or symmetrically along the axis. The main buildings of the outer court are Taihedian (Hall of Supreme Harmony), Zhonghedian (Hall of Central Harmony) and Baohedian (Hall of Preserved Harmony). The inner court's main buildings include Qianqinggong (Palace of Heavenly Purity), Jiaotaidian (Hall of Heavenly and Earthly Union), Kunninggong (Palace of Earthly Tranquillity), and the six eastern and six western palaces along the axis; known as the "Three Palaces and Six Courtyards", these are where the emperor and his empress and imperial concubines lived. North of the quarters is an exquisite imperial garden. In the Ming and early Qing Dynasty, the emperor lived in Qianqinggong, the empress lived in Kunninggong, and Jiaotaidian was where the empress held ceremonial activities. In the middle and late Qing, the emperor and empress lived in the six western palaces. The most important was Yangxindian (Hall of Mental Cultivation) which, since 1723 when Emperor Yongzheng moved in, had become the place where the emperor lived and administered the state affairs. Later, also in this hall, Empress Dowager Cixi held court from behind a screen as the emperor's regent, for 40 years.

Almost everything in the Imperial Palace had its symbolic meaning. Even the name, Zi Jin Cheng (Forbidden City), reflects the beliefs of ancient Chinese philosophy and astronomy. The palace structure was an imitation of the legendary "Heavenly Palace". Ancient astronomers believed that the three fixed stars were surrounded by 28 constellations, and in the centre of the heaven was the constellation called Ziwei (Purple Light). So "Zi" refers to the emperor being the centre of the mankind, and "Jin" and "Cheng" mean "Forbidden" and "City" respectively.

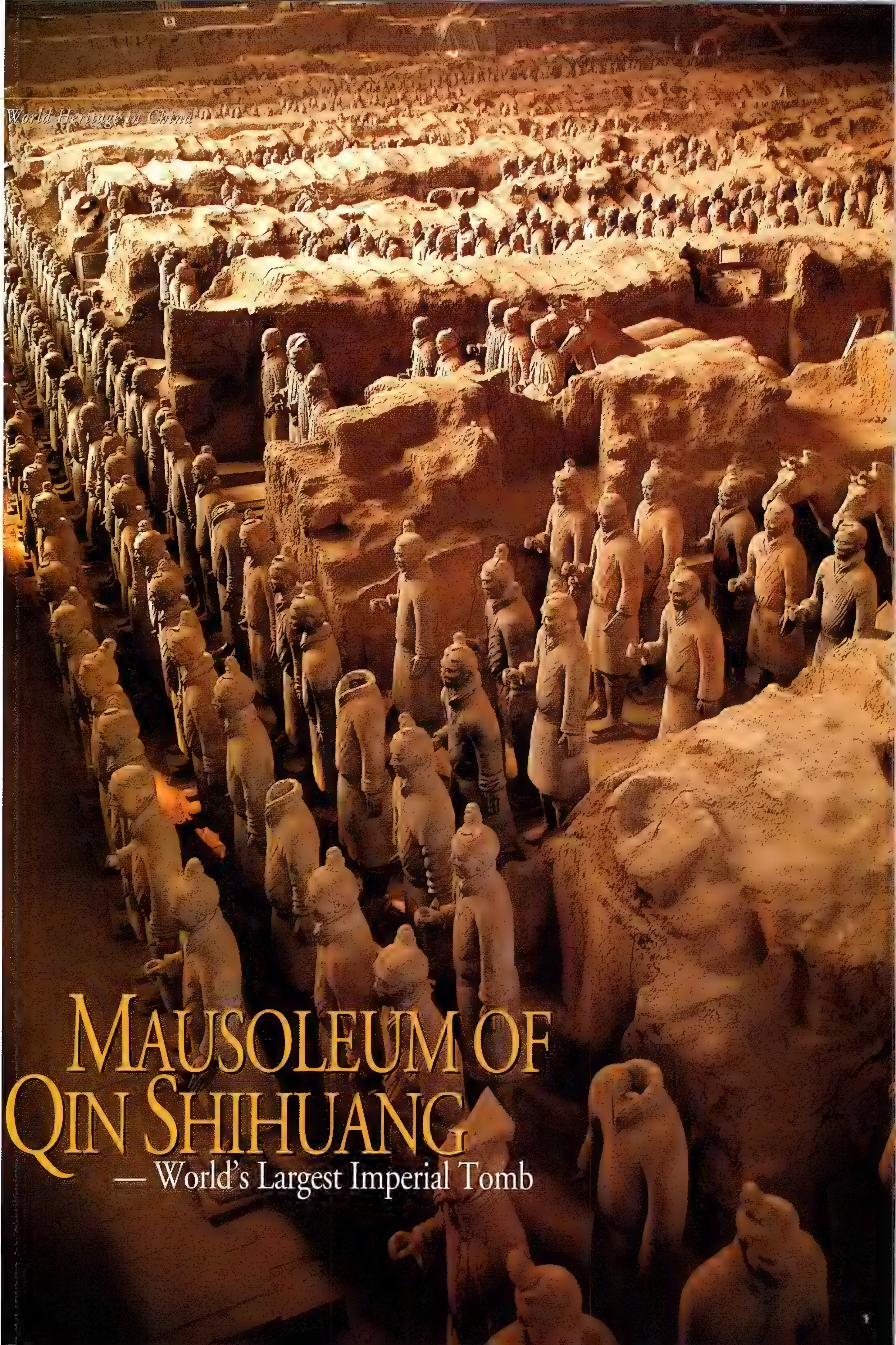
There are altogether 9,999 and a half rooms in the Forbidden City. It would take 27 years to sleep in all the rooms. Copper nails on each door are laid out in sets of nine by nine, because nine was believed to be the greatest number and the emperor was the greatest. In addition, *jiu* (nine) sounds like the Chinese character for forever, symbolising the long life of the imperial empire. Colour also had its meaning. Yellow is the standard colour for the palace's glazed tiles and interior decorations. The ancient classic *Book of History* believes that the universe was formed by the five elements (metal, wood, water, fire and earth) which co-existed while vying with each other so that the universe kept changing. Yellow represented the earth, the basis of everything. As the emperor was the basis of the human population, yellow became the imperial colour.

Now there are 10 museums in the Forbidden City, in which a total of one million collected pieces, some rare or unique, are housed.



Previous page:
The Palace Museum veiled in morning mist, as seen from the top of the hill in Jingshan Park north of the palace (by Lu Shunping)

1. The white marble column and the stone carving of dragon head outside a tower (by Hu Chui)
2. Behind the horizontal plaque "Justice and Honour" above the emperor's throne in Qianqinggong, was a box containing the emperor's edict declaring his successor. (by Wang Wenbo)
3. A bird's-eye view of the Palace Museum (by Hu Weibiao)
4. The Hall of Gold and Jade, luxuriously decorated, was originally the Huangjidian (Hall of Imperial Supremacy). (by Chan Yat Nin)
5. The Nine-dragon Screen outside Huangjimen (Gate of Imperial Supremacy) is the best dragon-pattern screen in China. (by Wang Wenbo)
6. This copper-bodied cloisonné pot with gold-inlaid patterns exemplifies the handicraft works housed in the Palace Museum. (by Hu Chui)
7. A Corner Tower on the Forbidden City Walls, which is exquisitely built with three layers of double eaves and 72 ridges (by Hu Chui)



MAUSOLEUM OF QIN SHIHUANG

— World's Largest Imperial Tomb

The Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang, First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, is located in Lintong, 37 kilometres east of Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province. This enormous mausoleum sits at the foot of Mount Lishan facing the Weihe River to the north. Satellite pictures show that the topography from Mount Lishan to Mount Huashan looks like a dragon and the mausoleum fits into the position of the dragon's eyes. It is therefore regarded as a land of auspicious geomancy.

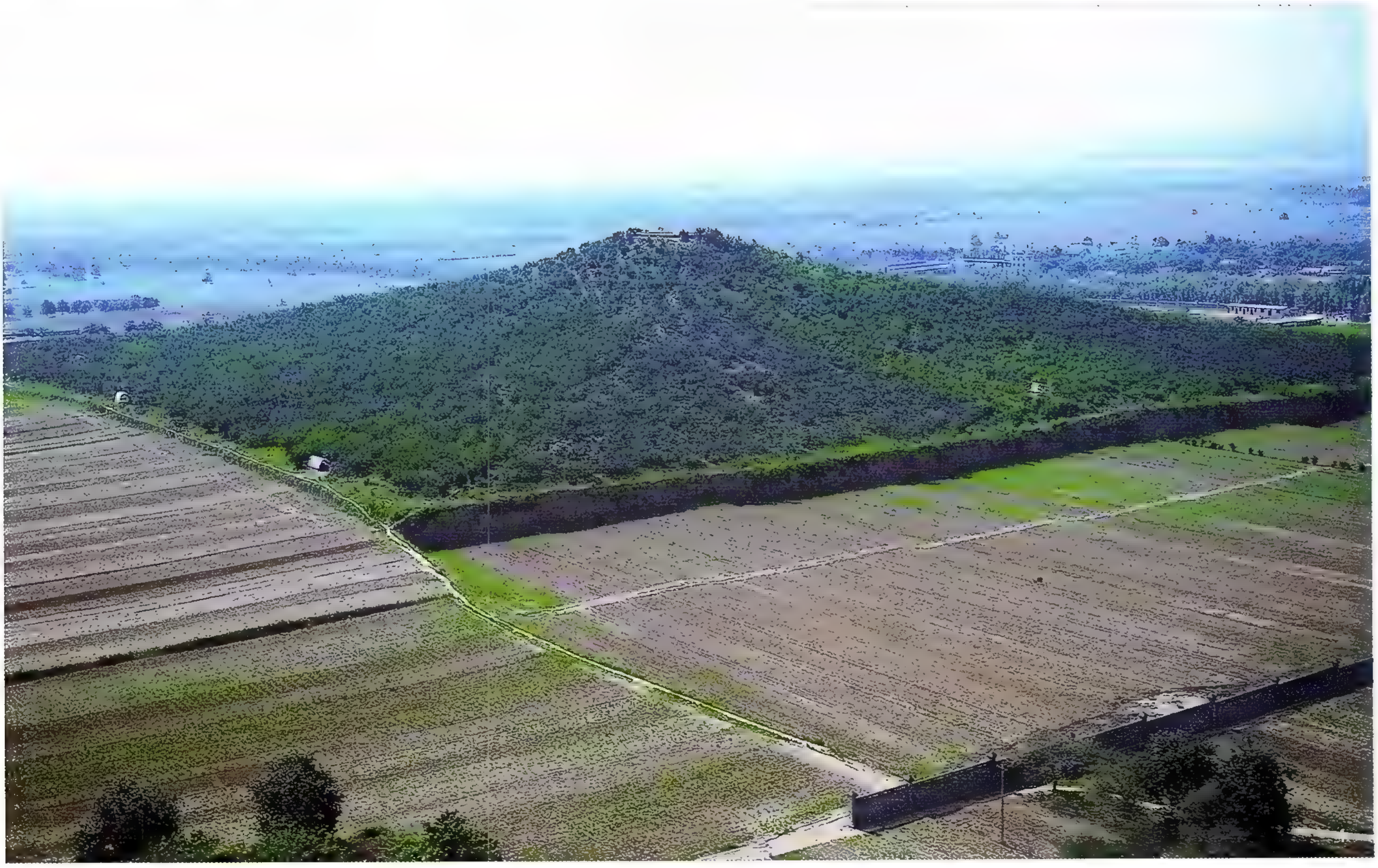
The First Emperor of the Qin, named Ying Zheng (259-210 B.C.), ascended the throne at the age of 13 and administered the state affairs at 22. From 230 B.C., over a 10-year period he merged the six states of Qi, Chu, Yan, Han, Zhao and Wei, and founded the first feudal empire of centralised monarchy in China. Construction of his tomb was started in 247 B.C. and completed at his death in 210 B.C.

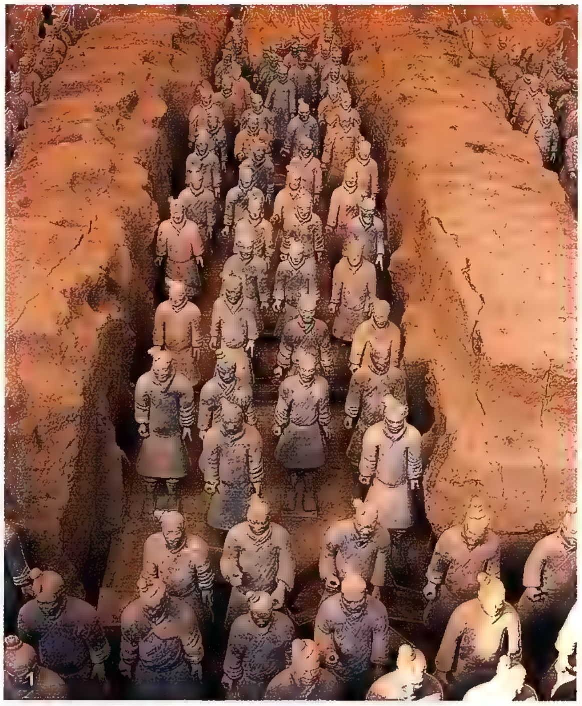
Called Lishan Garden by the local people, the mausoleum is a huge hill amidst farmland. It occupies an area of nearly eight square kilometres. Due to weathering of 2,000 years, its height has come down to 50 metres today from the original 115 metres. According to a preliminary survey the mausoleum had an inner and outer city. The inner city was a square with a circumference of 3,000 metres and five gates, two in its north wall and one in each of the east, west and south walls. The outer city was rectangular with a circumference of 6,200 metres and a gate at each corner. Between the inner and outer cities, there was a horse pit, rare animal pit and pottery warriors pit; outside the tomb there was a series of 400 pits, including those for horse stable, human sacrifices, executed persons and tomb-builders. It is said that the second Qin Emperor, Hu Hai, ordered the sacrificial burial of all the builders and childless imperial maids.

2

3

1. The Terracotta Army in an imposing formation (by Wang Shouping)
2. The exhibition hall at Pit No. 2 at the Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang (by Yuan Xuejun)
3. Terracotta soldiers were found in 11 lanes of Pit No. 1. (by Yuan Xuejun)
4. The magnificent Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang is a hill with four straight sides totalling 2,167 metres. (by Ma Lingyun)





1. **The terracotta soldiers standing neatly in their underground position (by Yang Limin)**
2. **Specialists carefully restoring unearthed soldier figurines (by Qiu Xiaoming)**
3. **A pottery soldier unearthed from Pit No. 2. Though the weapon in his hand rotted away, his pose of kneeling to shoot remains vivid. (by Huang Jixian)**
4. **Warriors of Pit No. 2 appear brave and solemn. This head with its unique cap and hair style still bears the remains of skin-colour paint. (by Ma Lingyun)**
5. **The spot in Pit No.1 where battle chariots and horses were unearthed (by Wei Wangxiang)**

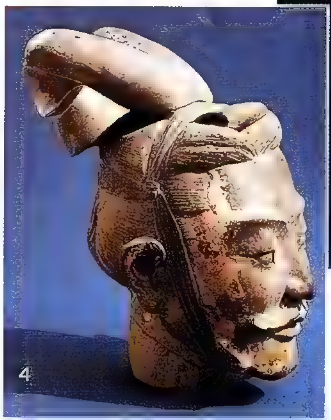
The mausoleum has not yet been excavated because it is not as easy as to enter later imperial tombs which had gates and tunnels. In such tombs, once the gate or tunnel was found, the structure could be accessed. This mausoleum does not have any gate or tunnel. It was constructed by digging a large, deep pit and then rammed with earth layer after layer. Cultural relics may have been buried in the earthen layers. To excavate it, the hill on top of the tomb would have to be ripped off layer after layer, and the huge project might endanger the tomb itself. There is hope that advanced technology could be used in the future to excavate the tomb without damage.

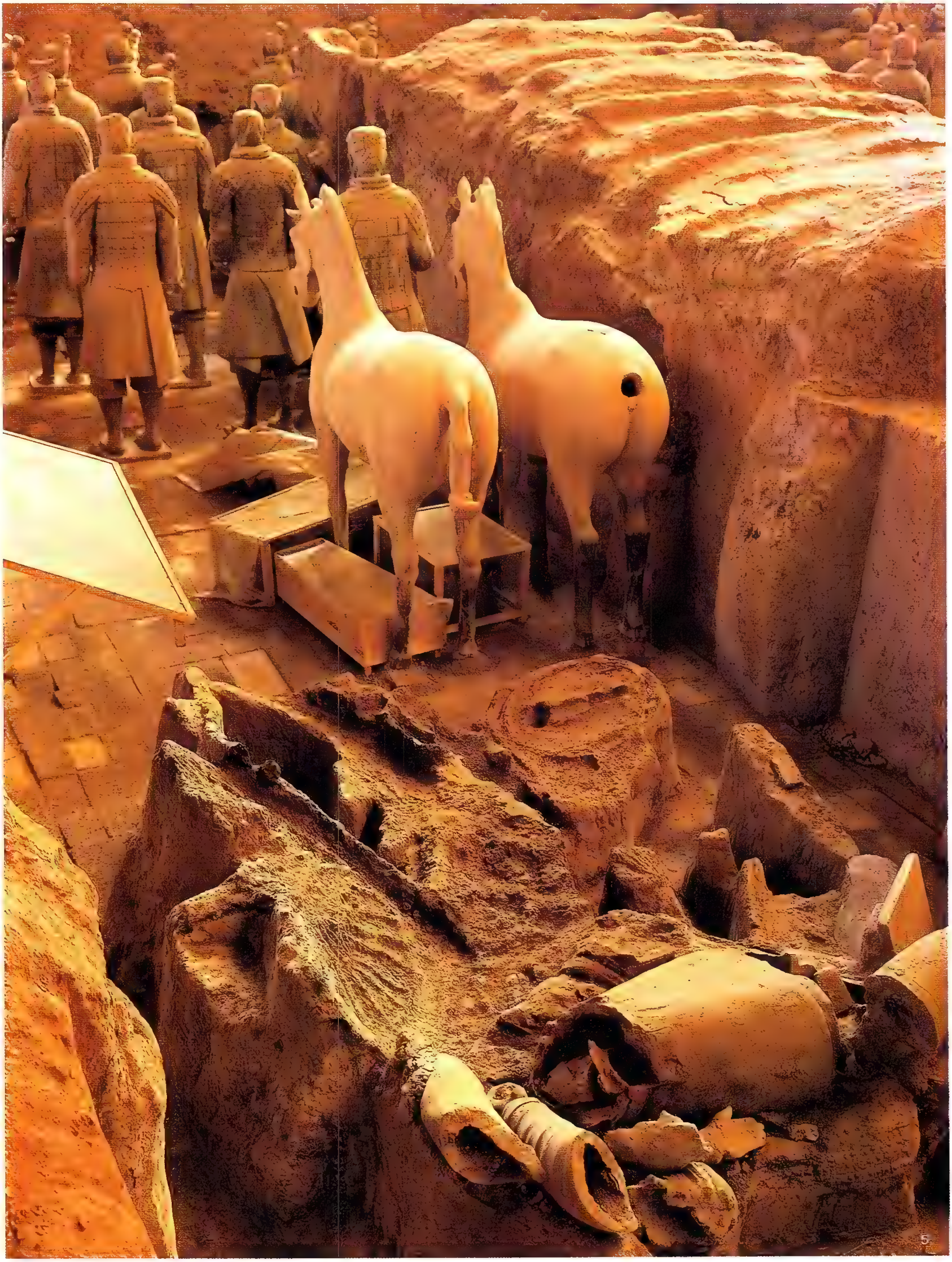
From the cultural relics discovered so far around the mausoleum, however, we have reason to believe that there are enormous burial objects in the tomb. The three Terracotta Army Pits, as part of the mausoleum, were discovered 500 metres to the east. This astonishing discovery, by farmers in 1974 when they were digging wells, is now regarded as the eighth wonder on earth.

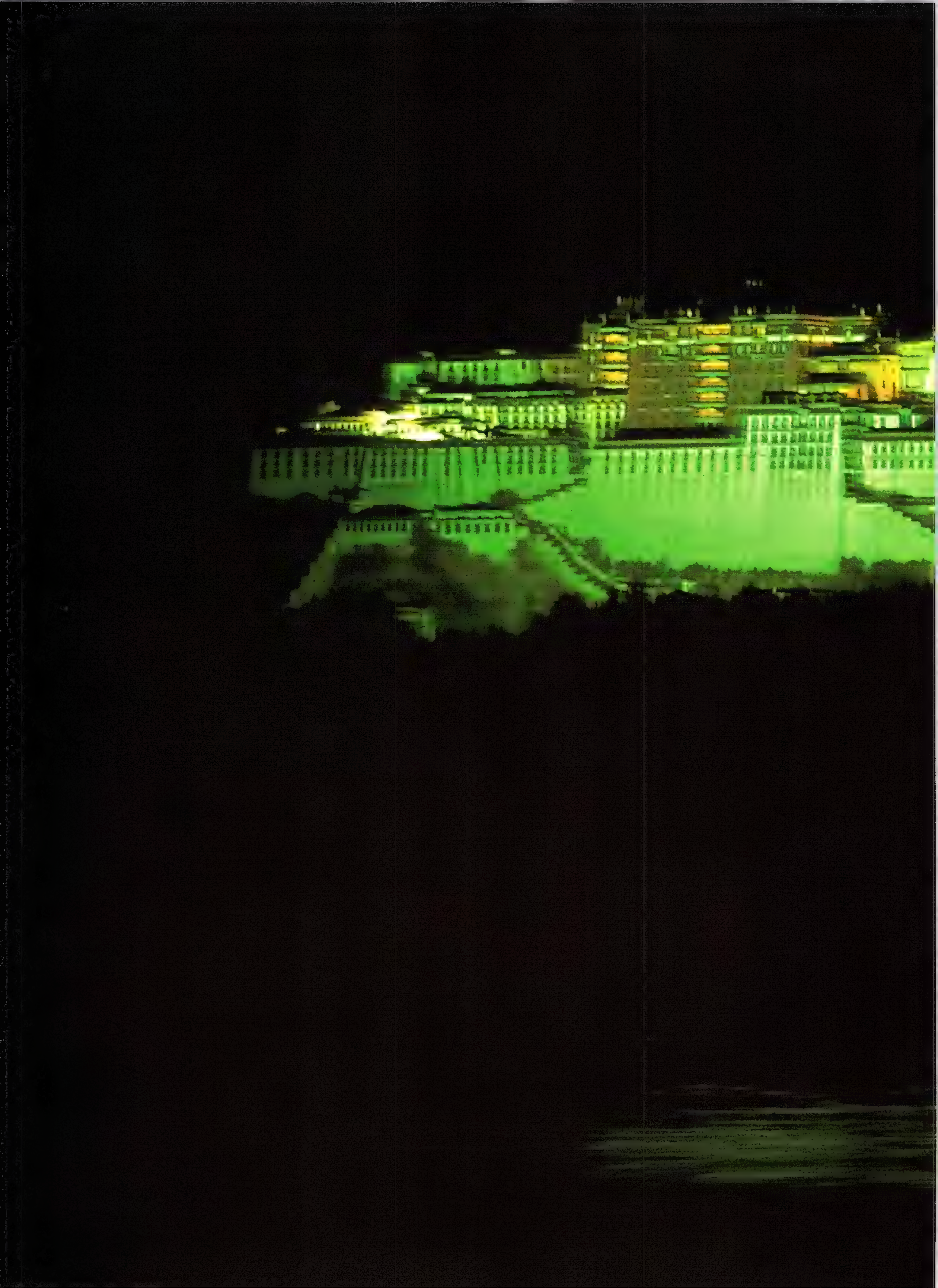
In Pit No.1 there are about 6,000 terracotta figurines of soldiers and horses in a large military formation marching east, as well as over 7,000 works of war chariots, bronze weapons, gold, bronze and stone ornaments, and architectural remains. In May 1976, Pit No.2 was found 20 metres northeast of Pit No.1. So far, the terracotta objects found include 261 large chariot drivers, 356 chariot horses, 116 cavalrymen, 116 saddled horses and 562 infantrymen. There were also 89 wooden chariots and large numbers of metal weapons. This is another large military formation composed of battle chariots, cavalry and infantry facing east. Pit No. 3 was discovered in June 1976. Less weapons were excavated but it revealed its important position as the army headquarters.

There are four suggestions for the meaning of the terracotta army pits: guardian troops for the capital; imperial soldiers guarding Qin Shihuang during his eastern investigative trip; funeral procession; or memorial to his army. Archaeologists believe the general layout of the tomb was modelled from the emperor's palace.

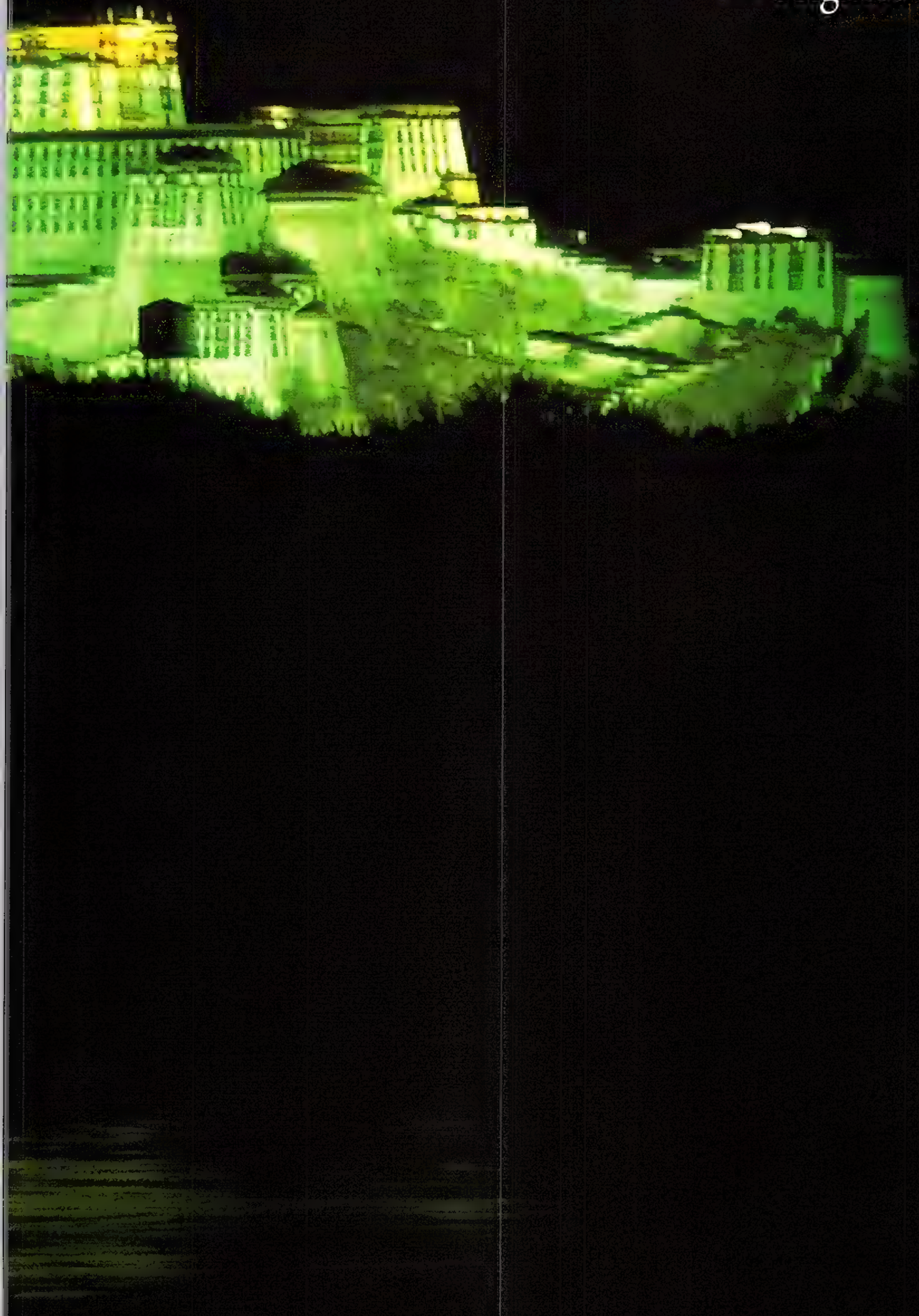
The terracotta army pits have provided objects and references for the study of the military, culture and economy in the Qin Dynasty. Its excavation has been regarded as "one of the greatest findings in archaeological history of the 20th century".




5



POTALA PALACE
— Highest Palace in the World



2

3

4

5

The Potala Palace, standing in the basin of Lhasa, is the symbol of Lhasa and Tibet. The builder of the first Potala Palace was the 33rd Tubo King, Songtsan Gambo, who ascended the throne at age 13 in the 7th century. He built the Potala Palace when he was 15 years old to celebrate his marriage to Tang-dynasty Princess Wencheng. Later, supported by the Mongolian ruler Kushi Khan, the Fifth Dalai Lama defeated the Karma Kingdom and formed a government in the Drepung Monastery. During his three years of government, he realised the establishment of a government in a temple violated the religious rules. So in 1645, he chose the Red Hill, where Songtsan Gambo's palace had stood, to build this Potala Palace, and the construction continued for 50 years. It became its present size after several later expansions. Due to the combining of politics and religion, the Potala became the site of local government as well as the living quarters of the highest living Buddha in Tibet.

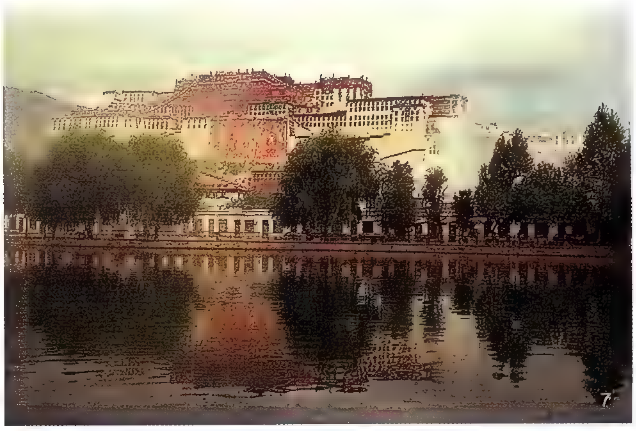
In architectural terms, the place where the emperor lived and administered state affairs is called *gong* (palace), where Buddhist monks live is called *si* (temple or monastery), and a large tomb is called *ling* (mausoleum). These are seldom mixed up but the Potala is an exception. This palace is Tibet's largest and most complete existing architectural group which consists of palaces, tombs (stupas) and Tibetan Buddhist temples. Tibetan Buddhism is a multi-sect religion, and this is also reflected in the palace's architecture. The upper part comprises the Red and White palaces, while the buildings at the foot of the hill are mainly in yellow colour. Altogether there are 999 halls and rooms. The Red Palace enshrines the stupas of the Dalai Lama of the previous generations and the White Palace was the place where the Dalai Lama administered government affairs, preached religious scriptures and lived. The Potala has used the greatest amount of gold in the world for decoration. The stupa of the Fifth Dalai Lama alone used 3,400 kilograms of gold.

The Potala is a palace and castle-style structure of the later period of Tibetan Buddhism. It reflects the basic rule of the Tibetan Buddhist architectural style while blending it with the palace architecture. The feature of this palace held in common with an imperial palace, such as Beijing's Forbidden City, is its vast space and enormous group of buildings. But there is difference in the layout. The Forbidden City is a formal feudal design with all the main buildings on a central axis and courtyards paralleling it, high and low, which demonstrates the supreme imperial power, while the Potala Palace is designed according to the imagined Buddhist realm. Unlike the imperial palace's emphasis on luxury and supremacy, the Potala focuses on stimulation, inspiration, revelation and passion. Through the combination of complicated levels and vertical space, Potala Palace transfers illusion into reality, fitting a holy land into an earthly realm.

Paintings are an important part of the Potala Palace architecture, mainly consisting of murals, tangkas (Tibetan painted scrolls), and other coloured decorations. Over time, tens of thousands of mural works have been created in the Potala, making it a palace of art. In the art gallery on the second floor in the West Hall alone there are 698 murals. Exquisitely painted in bright colours, these murals depict a wide range of themes.

Potala Palace has a collection of about 10,000 tangka paintings; most usually measure one metre high, but the larger ones could be dozens of metres high. Much of the collection in the palace is from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Coloured decorations fill the palace, usually in patterns of dahlias, pomegranates, clouds, grasses, curled leaves, gilded beads, the six-character testament and the eight-treasure picture. Warm colours such as vermilion, dark red, golden yellow and orange-yellow are usually used as a base to make a striking contrast with the blue, green and other cold colours.

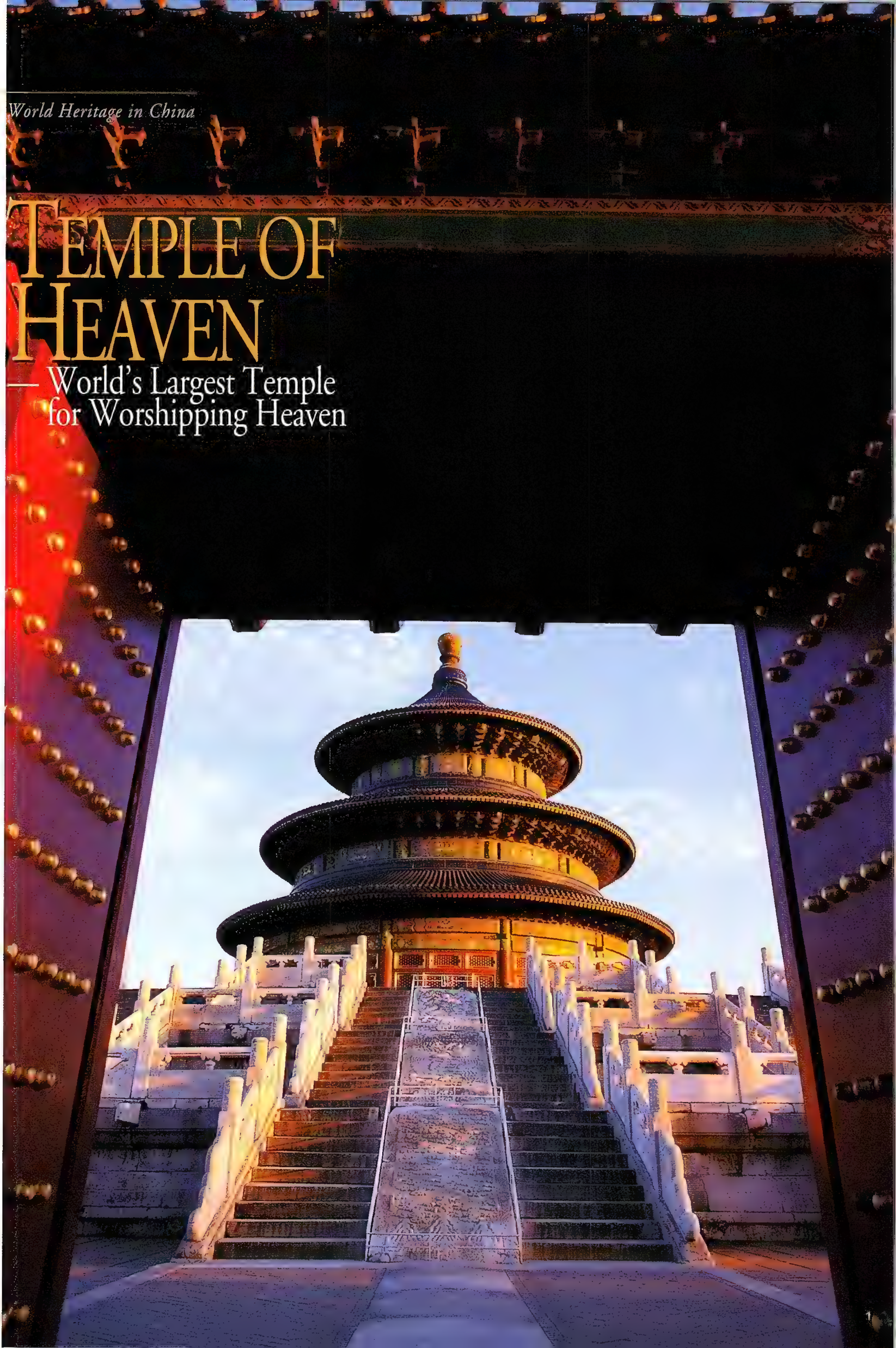


Previous page:
The Potala Palace was first built in the 7th century, struck by lightning in the 8th century and destroyed by war in the 9th century. The present Potala Palace was reconstructed in 1645 by the Fifth Dalai Lama after he attained control of the power in Tibet. (by Chen Ruijun)

1. **A mural in the Potala Palace depicting Tibetan festival activities (by Bian Zhiwu)**
2. **The West Hall was where various political and religious activities were held. Pillars and beams in its four side halls are carved with patterns modelled on the design of the Hall of Time Wheel. Its four walls are painted in four different background colours made from turquoise, coral, gold and pearl respectively. (by Bian Zhiwu)**
3. **The East Hall, the largest of the White Palace, was built in the 17th century. The horizontal board is a gift from the Qing court. (by Bian Zhiwu)**
4. **A gilt copper statue of Maitreya is housed in the Hall of Maitreya in the Red Palace. Holding a golden wheel in his right hand and flowers in his left hand, he sits with crossed-legs on a lotus-flower seat. (by Bian Zhiwu)**
5. **This mural depicts the sacrificial ceremony held after the Fifth Dalai Lama's death in 1696: the funeral team of several thousand monks is passing Jokhang Temple and Yutuo Bridge. (by Bian Zhiwu)**
6. **The clay statue of King Songtsan Gambo in the Meditation Cave made in the 7th century (by Bian Zhiwu)**
7. **The Red and White palaces of Potala Palace (by Lin Nuhou)**

TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

— World's Largest Temple for Worshipping Heaven



1

TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

The Temple of Heaven, located in the southern part of urban Beijing, is the largest existing temple structure in China and also the largest temple worshipping Heaven in the world. Built in 1420 in the Ming Dynasty, the temple occupies an area of 267 hectares.

The Temple of Heaven was the place where the Ming and Qing emperors held sacrificial ceremonies to Heaven and prayed for good harvests. A Chinese emperor was regarded as the "Son of Heaven", so the emperor's residence should naturally be smaller than that of Heaven. This is why the Temple of Heaven is three times larger than the Forbidden City. In the early Ming Dynasty, the location of the Temple of Heaven was in the southern suburbs of Beijing, conforming to ancient rules that the ceremony of sacrifice to Heaven should be held in the suburbs. In 1553 during the reign of Emperor Jiajing when an outer wall was built in Beijing, the Temple of Heaven was enclosed into the outer city.

The Temple of Heaven has inner and outer walls. The northern walls form a semi-circle while the southern ones are square, symbolising the "circular Heaven and square Earth". In the early Ming Dynasty, the ceremonies for worshipping Heaven and Earth were combined, but since Emperor Jiajing's ninth year the ceremony for worshipping Earth was separately conducted in the Temple of Earth in the northern suburbs. The Temple of Heaven was then used for worshipping Heaven and praying for good harvests only.

There are three buildings on the central axis, forming the main groups of

2

1. **The gorgeous Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest in the Temple of Heaven was believed to be the place closest to Heaven. (by Guo Jianshe)**
2. **The tiles of the Imperial Vault of Heaven which houses the tablets of the Heavenly Gods (by Liu Yang)**
3. **The exquisitely painted ceiling of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest (by Brien Culhane)**

3

1. Around the Imperial Vault of Heaven is the Echo Wall, by which people whispering at apart positions can hear each other clearly. (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. The Imperial Vault of Heaven, one of the major buildings in the Temple of Heaven (Courtesy of China Photo Bank)
3. The outside of the Echo Wall (by Wang Miao)
4. The three main buildings in the Temple of Heaven — the Circular Altar, Imperial Vault of Heaven and Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest — are constructed on the central axis. (by Hu Weibiao)

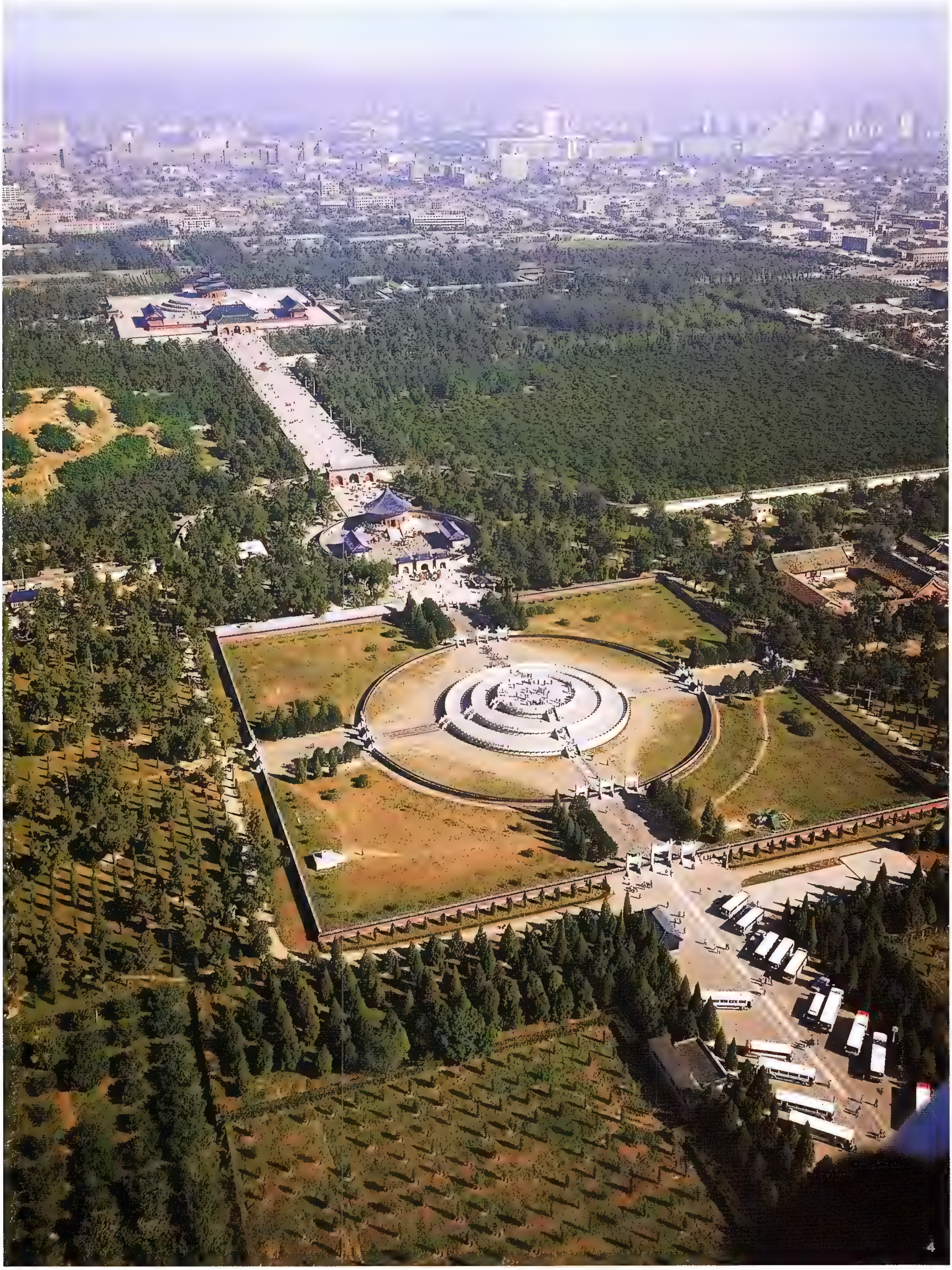
structures. The Huanqiu (Circular Altar) in the south is five metres high and 23 metres in diameter. Its round central marble slab is surrounded by three terraces each with nine circles of fan-shaped slabs. The number of slabs in the circles increase by multiples of nine, up to 81 in the outermost one. The emperor offered prayers and made sacrifices to Heaven at its centre.

This altar also has some curious acoustic effects. If you stand at the centre and clap, you can hear one echo. From the second and third terraces, you can hear two or three echoes respectively. Known in ancient times as "thunder from Heaven", this mysterious phenomenon is a result of the circular wall around it.

The building in the middle on the axis is the Huangqiongyu (Imperial Vault of Heaven), 19.5 metres high and 15.6 metres in diameter, which houses the tablets of the Heavenly Gods used in ceremonies on the altar. The circular wall around the Imperial Vault of Heaven is known as the Echo Wall. This brick wall, 3.72 metres high, 0.9 metres thick and 61.5 metres in diameter with a circumference of 193.2 metres, is covered with blue glazed tiles. It is so smoothly curved that sound bounces off the walls in a consistent way. Two people standing far apart by the wall can hear each other's whispers.

The Qiniandian (Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest), standing in the north, is the most magnificent and beautiful building in the Temple of Heaven. It is also the best wooden structure in China in which mortises and tenons are used for beams, pillars, brackets and columns. Regarded as the closest place to Heaven, this was where the emperors came to offer sacrifices and hold "secret talks" with the Heavenly Emperor to assure good harvests.

Translated by M.Q.


4

Venerable Mountains

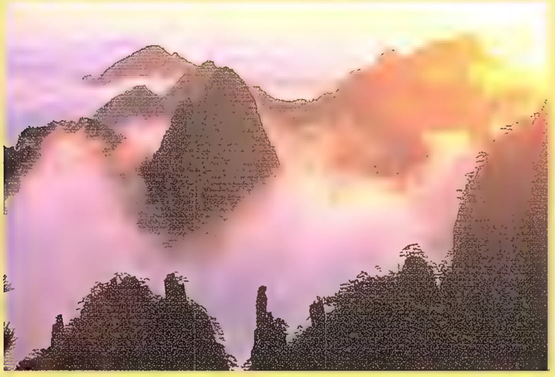
Union of Nature and Man

Mount Taishan

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 11th Session of the Committee in 1987

Mount Taishan symbolises ancient Chinese civilisation and beliefs and therefore has been a place of imperial pilgrimages and source of inspiration for scholars and artists for nearly 2,000 years. Its artistic masterpieces blend in perfect harmony with the natural landscape.

Only a mountain that possesses a beautiful shape and abounds with proper man-made adornments can reach the lofty realm of "perfection". Only a mountain that bears inscriptions of past emperors, princes and celebrities, and has temples and halls for gods, immortals and sages can be called "a famous mountain". It is this perfect union of nature and mankind that has made these mountains some of China's greatest attractions.



Mount Huangshan

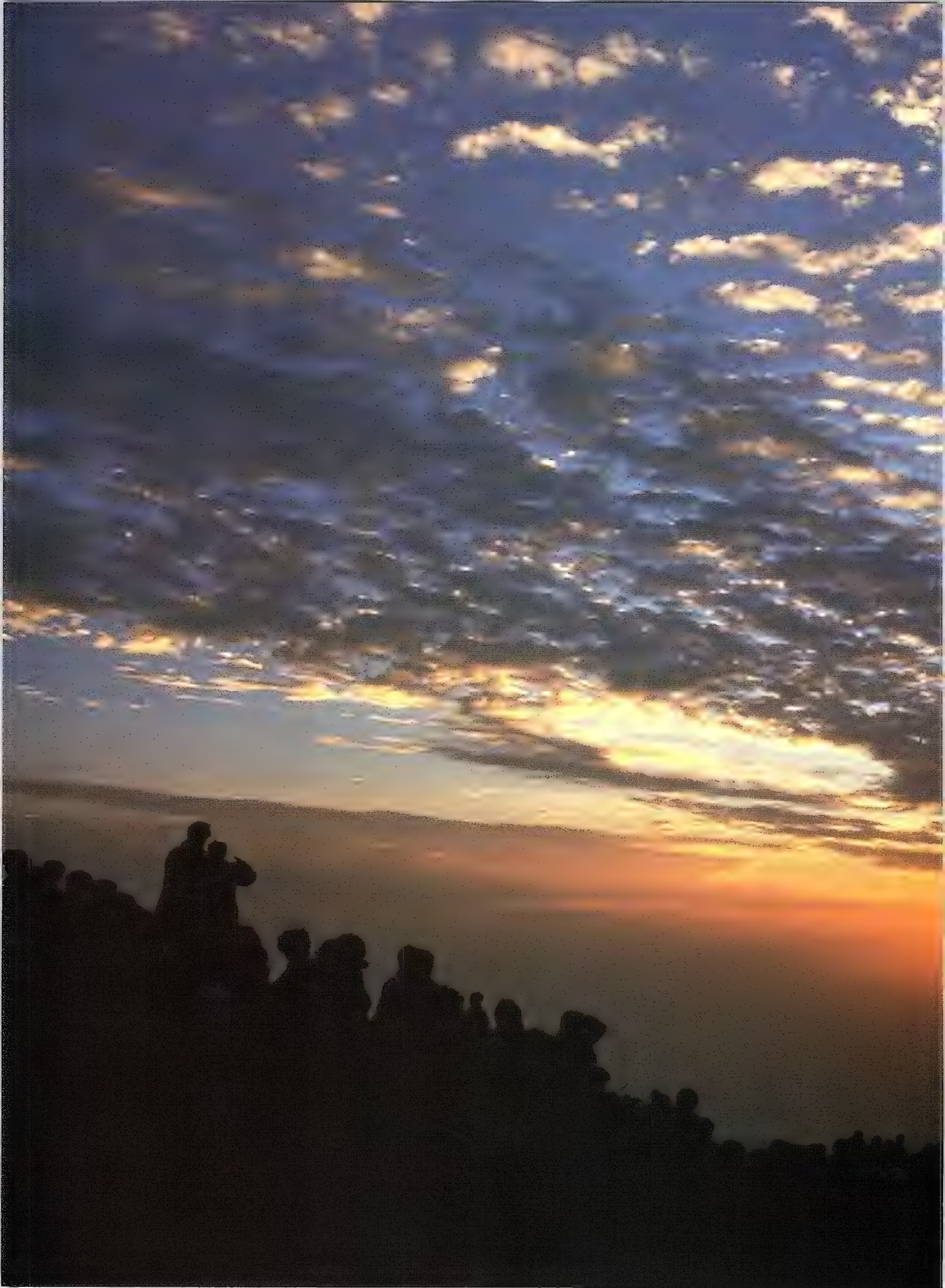
Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 14th Session of the Committee in 1990

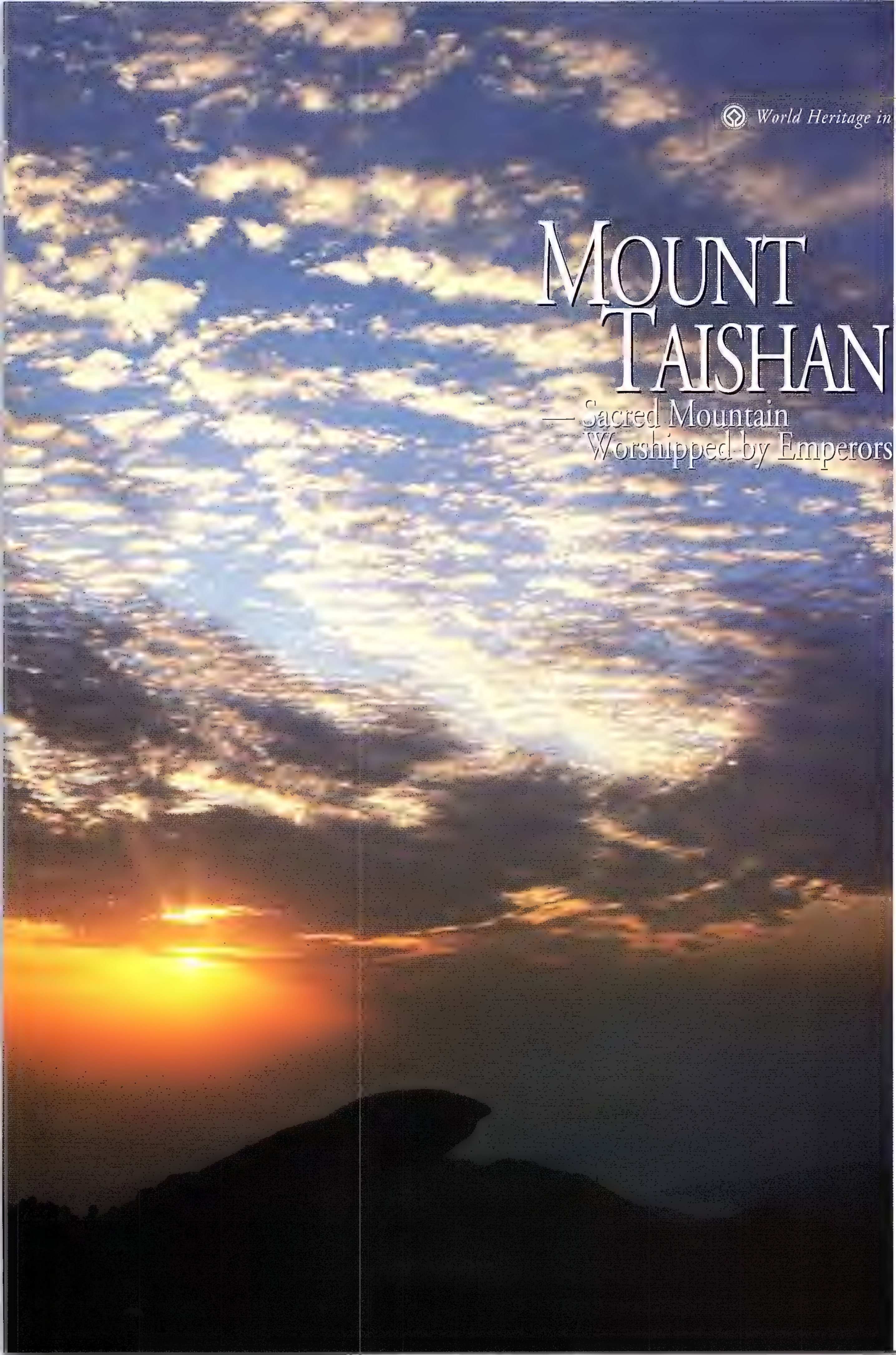
Known as "the loveliest mountain in China", Huangshan has been acclaimed throughout history in Chinese literature and art. Still today the mountain fascinates a myriad of visitors with its magnificent scenery of granite peaks and rare pine trees in a sea of clouds.

Mount Lushan

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 20th Session of the Committee in 1996

Mount Lushan, by the Yangtse River in Jiangxi Province, is one of the spiritual centres of China, with both Buddhist and Taoist temples located on its slopes, blending into a strikingly beautiful landscape. It has been the inspiration for the aesthetic approach to nature found in Chinese culture.





MOUNT TAISHAN

— Sacred Mountain Worshipped by Emperors

MOUNT TAISHAN

Mount Taishan in central Shandong Province is one of China's Five Sacred Mountains. Starting from the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.) through to the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), 72 emperors came to Taishan to offer sacrifices and beg the mountain to use its mighty strength to safeguard the imperial power and worldly peace. Sages and men of letters of ancient times also paid respects to the mountain. Confucius exclaimed: "When you reach the top of Taishan, you find the world becomes smaller." Later, great literati like Sima Qian, Li Bai, Du Fu and Su Dongpo also visited and wrote poems of praise. Verses by Du Fu have remained poetic masterpieces through the ages: "Viewed from the top of Taishan, All other mountains are dwarfed."

Actually, with a height of only 1,545 metres, Taishan is not a big mountain, but as it rises abruptly from the vast Shandong plain, it appears tall and magnificent. Furthermore, this 2.5-billion-year-old mountain is covered by tall ancient pines and cypresses, and is extremely verdant and luxuriant.

As Taishan was frequented by emperors, princes, high officials and gifted scholars, its roads were better constructed than other mountains. The road leading up the mountain is broad, solid and well-proportioned, with a unique style. From Daizongfang (Taishan Archway) at the foot of the mountain to Nantianmen (South Heavenly Gate), there are 7,000 stone steps, of which the Eighteen Bends section is most characteristic.

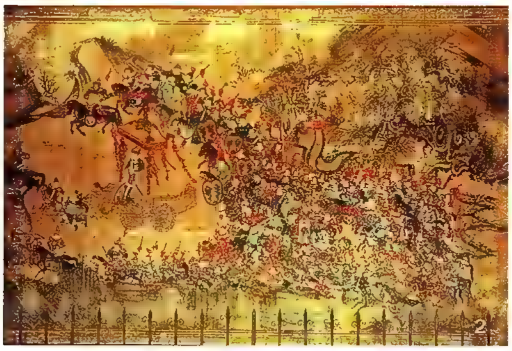
The mountain top, covering an area of about 0.6 square kilometres to the east of Nantianmen, is a fairly flat place with many odd rocks. The series of buildings such as Heavenly Street, Bixia Temple, Sun-Viewing Tower, Moon-Viewing Pavilion and Jade Emperor Tower make the terrace into a heavenly town, which resembles and at the same time contrasts the city of Tai'an at the foot. The mountain top is a vantage point for watching sunrise and on fine days, even the Yellow Sea 200 kilometres away can be seen.

In bygone times both the emperors and the common people regarded the peak of Taishan as a sacred place where the gods and man converged. When emperors came for grand sacrificial ceremonies to the mountain, they would have their carriage wheels wrapped with rice straw for fear of crushing the grass and plants and stone roads. Neither would they dare to build temples or halls randomly on the mountain top. Thus the mountain top retains its naturally haphazard rocky landscape.

One important reason why Taishan has been known as "The No. 1 Mountain Under Heaven" is its priceless cultural relics. From the Daimiao Temple at its foot to Bixia Temple at its top are numerous ancient buildings and stone tablets engraved with inscriptions.

The Daimiao (Taishan) Temple was where the emperors held grand ceremonies when they came to offer sacrifices to the mountain. It is a huge building complex covering over 90,000 square metres with 800 alcoves. Inside the main building, Tiankuang Hall, there is a Song-dynasty mural entitled *Returning to the Palace* that is 3.3 metres high and 62 metres long. It describes the great scene of the God of Mount Taishan returning from a hunting tour. Containing thousands of vivid human figures, the mural is a very rare cultural relic.

Among China's sacred mountains, Taishan's stone engravings are the best and the greatest in number. In Jingshiyu (Scripture Rock Valley), on a rock terrace of several hundred square metres, the Diamond Sutra is engraved in official script, each character being about a quarter square metre. Although weathered by wind and rain, 1,043 characters still remain today. On the top of Taishan there is a 10-metre-high stone tablet, with the words "In Memory of Taishan" in the hand of the Tang-dynasty emperor Xuanzong. The gilded characters sparkle as they reflect the morning sunlight. Still more culturally significant engravings of calligraphy works are found on the rocks on the mountain top.



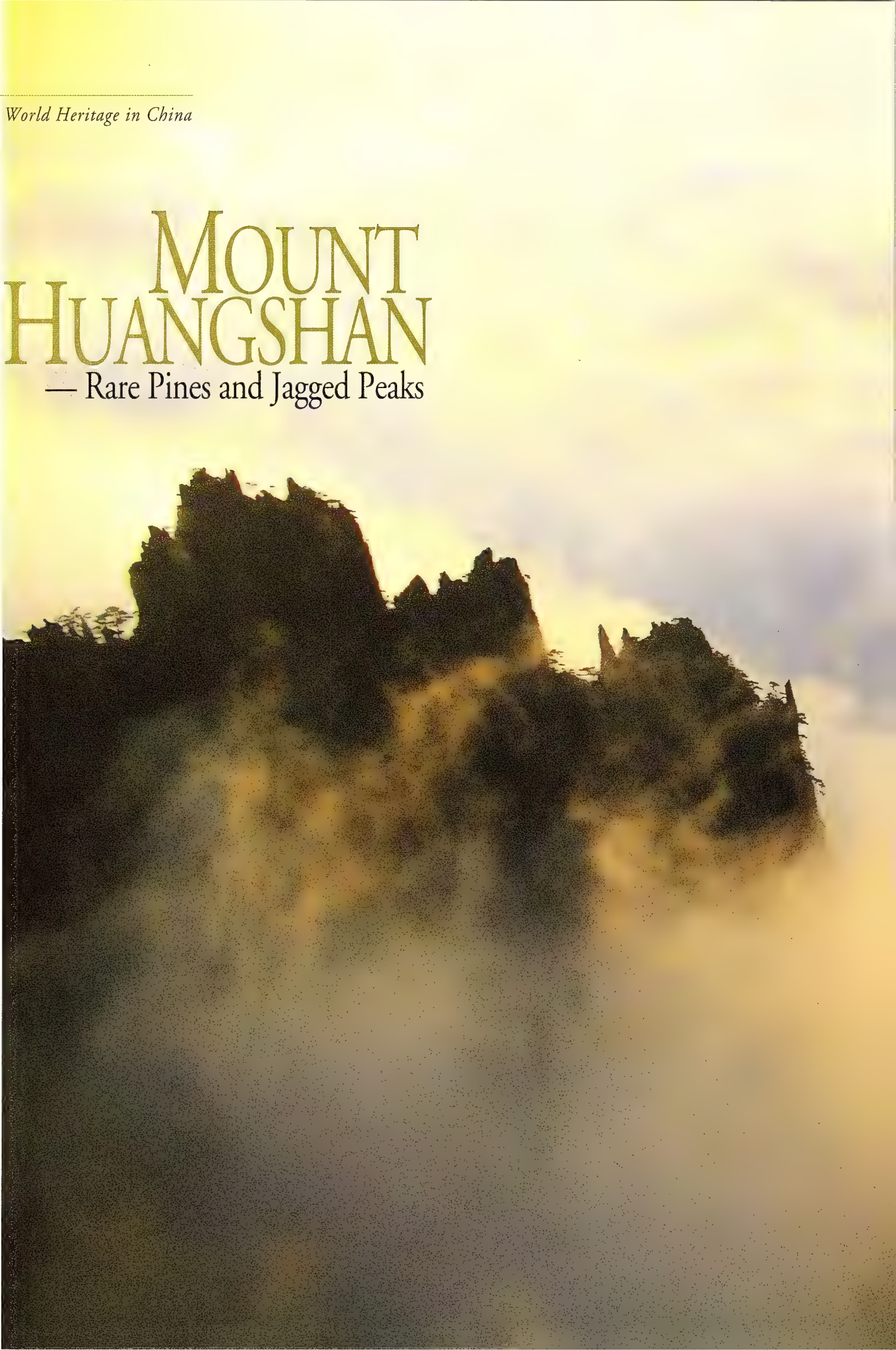
Previous page:
Mount Taishan, rising 1,545 metres high from the vast plain in central Shandong Peninsula, looks "supreme". Watching the sunrise at the top is a popular tourist programme. (by Liu Fuju)

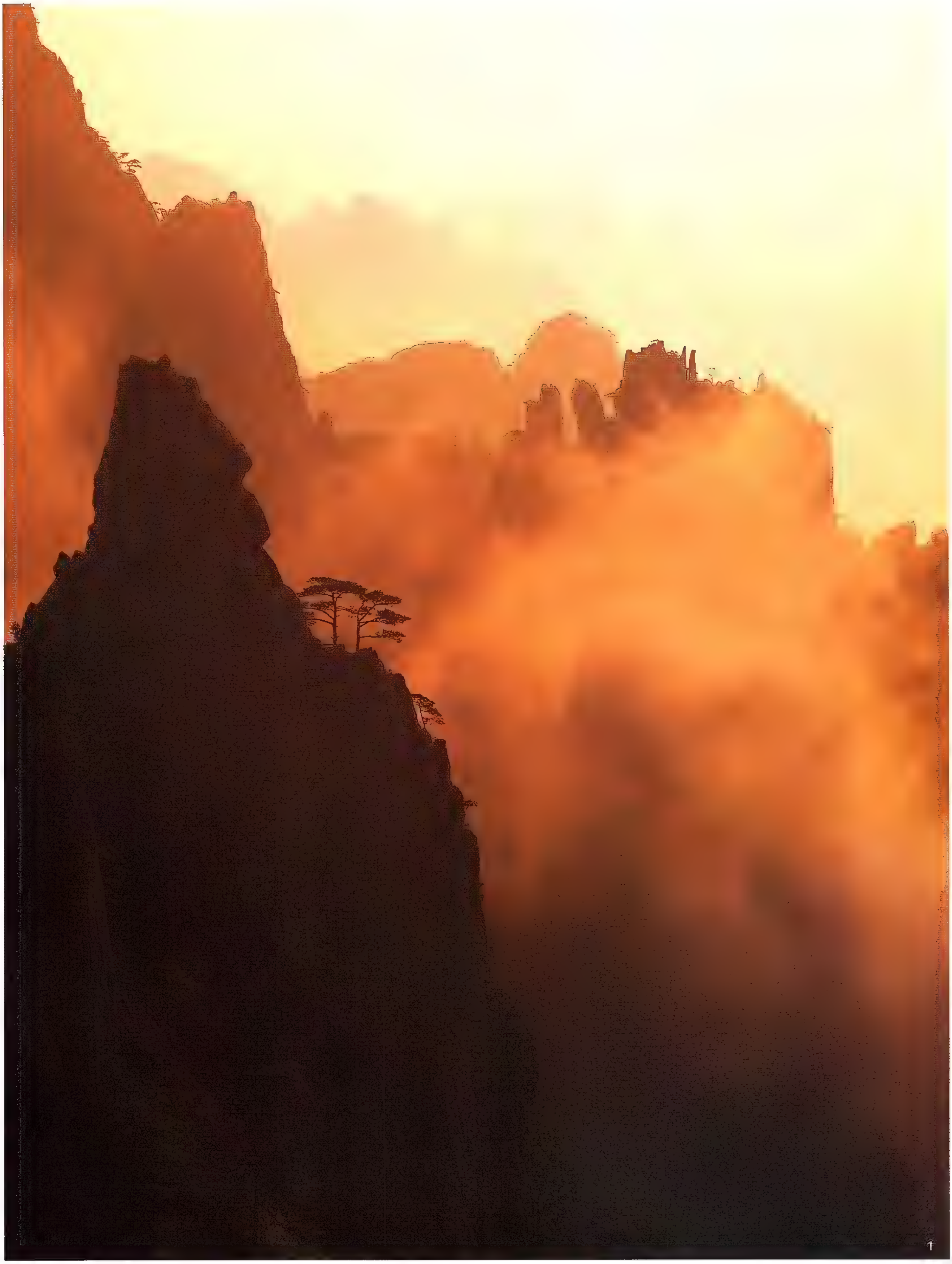
1. **The Dongyue (Taishan) God is worshipped in the Daimiao Temple in Tai'an City. (by Song Qizhong)**
2. **The 62-metre-long mural *Returning to the Palace* inside the Tiankuang Hall of the Daimiao Temple depicting the Taishan God on a heavenly inspection tour, in fact reflects a grand sacrificial ceremony held in the earthly world. (by Zhang Zhuangping)**
3. **Bixia Temple, the largest building complex at the top of Taishan, is a Taoist temple where Goddess Bixia, locally known as "Granny Taishan", is worshipped. (by Lian Haisheng)**
4. **The section from Nantianmen to the Tang-dynasty stone tablet is called the Heavenly Street. Viewed from above, the visitors seem to be touring a heavenly kingdom. (by Baoxiu)**

4

MOUNT HUANGSHAN

— Rare Pines and Jagged Peaks




1

MOUNT HUANGSHAN

Located in the southern part of Anhui Province, Huangshan is a rare high mountain in East China. Its scenic region covers an area of 154 square kilometres. Huangshan's scenery is quite unusual, with four wonders: rare pines, jagged peaks, sea of clouds and hot springs.

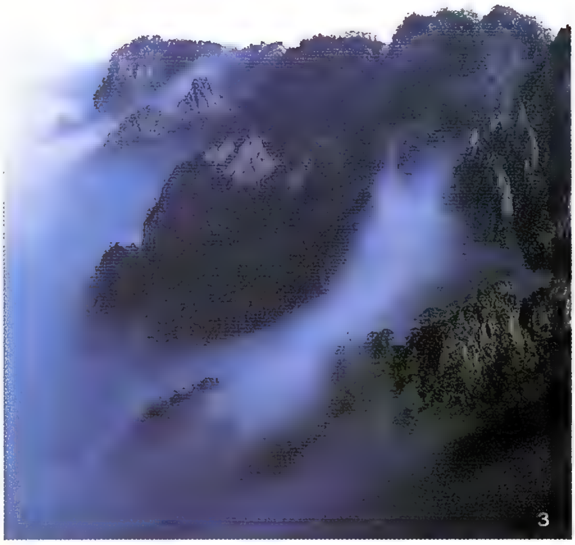
Huangshan has been a famous attraction since ancient times. In the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), it was called Yishan. In the Tang Dynasty (618-907), because Emperor Minghuang believed the story of the Yellow Emperor making immortality pills there, the mountain's name was changed to its present one, meaning Yellow Mountain. Huangshan has also been known as Three Heavenly Capitals because people believed its three main peaks, Tiandu, Lianhua and Guangmingding, were where the Heavenly God lived.

Since Huangshan shoots up relatively quickly, the plants are distributed in a vertical fashion. Below 900 metres are generally masson pine trees, but higher up is another kind of pine, designated by botanists as "Huangshan pine". Huangshan abounds with strange pine trees, and most of them grow in steep precipices. The pines are unusual for their queer shapes, either being tall and straight, or twisted and bent, and many peculiar ones have been given descriptive names. Rock and pine always go together on Huangshan, as the saying describes: "There is no rock without a pine growing on it, and there is no pine that is not growing in a strange shape."

Jagged peaks and strange rocks are everywhere on Huangshan. Some peaks resemble stalagmites and some rocks look like peaks. Sometimes peaks and rocks combine to form various images, including potted landscapes, flying birds or human figurines, such as Five Old Men Going to the Heavenly Capital on Tiandu Peak, Monkey Watching the Sea at Qingliang Terrace and Two Immortals Playing Chess on Shixing Peak. The most interesting is the rock called Flowers Painted with a Dreamed Writing Brush, which vividly resembles a writing brush and a pen-holder with flower-like pine trees at its tip.

Huangshan's seas of clouds are also unique. The high mountain, deep valley, abundant rainfall, low temperature and high pressure form very changeable weather patterns. Clouds often gather unexpectedly to form cloud seas. There are five major places to watch the "Huangshan Seas": the Yuping (Jade Screen) Pavilion for watching the South Sea, Qingliang (Clear and Cool) Terrace for the North Sea, Paiyun (Cloud Dispelling) Pavilion for the West Sea, Bai'e (White-Goose) Ridge for the East Sea, and Pingtiangang for the Heavenly Sea. In addition, the mists drift among the high peaks, adding mystery to the mountain.

There is also a scenic area featuring hot springs on Mount Huangshan. The hot spring water is around 42°C perpetually. The springs were called Cinnabar Springs in ancient times because Zhusha (Cinnabar) Peak is its source, and the phenomenon of vermilion cinnabar (mercuric sulphide) gushing up from the springs occurs every 300 years. Northeast of the hot springs, there is Huangshan's largest waterfall — the Jiulong (Nine-Dragon) Waterfall — roaring down spectacularly. This spot also marks the starting point of the cableway up to the mountain top.



Previous page:
Rolling clouds in the West Sea at Huangshan (by Yuan Lianmin)

1. **Mountain peaks of the North Sea shrouded in clouds and mist (by Yuan Xuejun)**
2. **The magnificent peaks and forests after a snowfall, viewed from Qingliangtai (by Lin Nuhou)**
3. **The changing scenes at Tiandu Peak (by Yuan Xuejun)**
4. **The Three Islands of Penglai, the most attractive place at Huangshan (by Yuan Xuejun)**

MOUNT LUSHAN

— Famous Summer Resort in Modern China

1

MOUNT LUSHAN

Mount Lushan, in northern Jiangxi Province, borders the Yangtse River in the north and faces the boundless Poyang Lake in the south. Its main peak, the Hanyang Peak, is 1,474 metres above sea level. As early as in the Tang and Song dynasties (618-1279), poets ascended the mountain and wrote their lines in admiration of the mountain, such as Li Bai's *Watching Lushan's Waterfall* and Su Dongpo's *Lushan*. The latter reads: "This side a range of hills and there a peak; From different vantage points, a different mountain; To me it is not given to know the true face of Lushan; Because I am in it."

Since a British missionary built the first villa on Lushan in 1885, European and American diplomatic envoys and foreign missionaries came to Lushan one after another to build summer resort homes. The Guling area which was leased to Britain for 99 years, eventually developed into a town with churches, theatres, playground and swimming pools. Later, even Chiang Kai-shek escaped the summer heat on Lushan, handling government affairs or holding meetings with high officials. Mount Lushan was taken as the summer capital. After the founding of New China, the Communist leaders, including Mao Zedong, also went to Lushan in summer to escape the heat and hold important meetings. Nowadays, the European-style villas form a scenic attraction typical of the mountain.

1. **The River-Viewing Tower at Guling is a vantage point to see the distant Yangtse River and watch the rolling clouds in the Scissors Gorge. (by Xiong Yao)**
2. **The Lushan Botanical Garden provides beautiful autumn scenes. (by Yin Xixiang)**
3. **The area from the Black Dragon Pool to the Reed Lake is covered with bamboo groves and fir forests. (by Yin Xixiang)**

3

1

2

Lushan also has its share of sacred spots. The Donglin Temple at its northwestern foot is the birthplace of the Taoist Pure Land Sect established by Monk Hui Yuan of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420). The White Deer Cave Academy on the south side is one of the four major schools for classic learning in China, and a place where Zhu Xi, a celebrated scholar of the Song Dynasty, gave lectures. The Lushan Botanical Garden at the mountain top is one of China's largest and earliest botanical gardens.

July and August are the months for a holiday or recuperation on Lushan. When the daytime temperature in nearby cities such as Jiujiang or Nanchang reaches up to 39°C, in the town of Guling on Lushan it is a pleasant 28°C at noon, while mornings and evenings vary between 15°C and 20°C.

Why is it so cool in summer on Lushan? First, it rises abruptly from the plain to over 1,000 metres; second, the wind is strong, averaging 2.6 metres per second faster than the wind speed of Jiujiang at the foot, and annually there are an average of 143 days of wind; third, Lushan has around 160 rainy days a year, its annual average precipitation being 1,833.6 mm., 900 mm. more than that of Nanjing at the same latitude. With mist and fog in the air 191 days of a year, Lushan's humid and cool climate supports dense vegetation.

The mist and clouds on Lushan are extraordinarily charming. According to their different and beautiful patterns, the Lushan clouds have been classified as Waterfall Clouds — magnificent drifting clouds created by the atmospheric pressure and mountain slopes; Jade Belt Clouds — thin long sheets of clouds appearing after rain that float horizontally over the mountain tops like beautiful flying streamers; Ladder Clouds that fold layer upon layer; Masses of Clouds that roll like seething waves; and Cloud Seas that cover the entire land. Besides, a lucky visitor may see the Buddha's halo on Lushan. The peculiar peaks, tranquil valleys, dense forests, deep pools and flying waterfalls make Lushan a fascinating place, and the different types of ever-changing clouds add a mysterious essence.

The enchanting topography of Lushan was created by ancient glaciers. At the end of the Tertiary Period when the global weather turned cold, Lushan rose up gradually above snow line. By the Quaternary Period, Lushan's top had become a perennial layer of ice. As time went by, many glaciers formed and moved downward, their enormous power "engraving" and sculpturing the slopes and valleys, creating the various landforms we see today, such as the Scissors Gorge, the Brocade Valley, and the U-shaped Western Guling Valley. The Lesser Heavenly Pool and Yellow Dragon Pond were ice cellars, the Flying Rock was a deposit and the Shoe Hill at the Poyang Lake, a rock brought down by the glaciers. Based on his studies of the Lushan geography, Li Siguang, a famous Chinese geologist of modern times, established his theory "The Glaciers of the Quaternary Period".

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

3

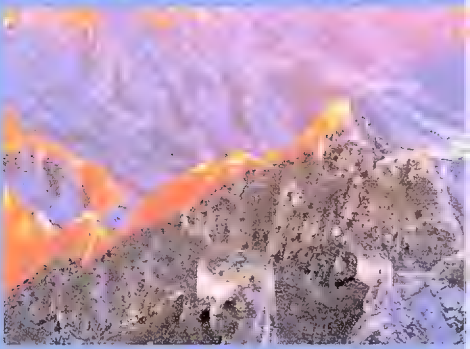
4

5

1. **Mount Lushan rises 1,474 metres on the plain bordering the three provinces of Hunan, Anhui and Jiangxi. With the Yangtse River in the north and the Poyang Lake in the south, it is an ideal summer resort. (by Xiong Yao)**
2. **Lushan's jagged peaks and rocks and deep valleys were formed by the movement of ancient glaciers. (by Xiong Yao)**
3. **Peculiar peaks and rocks wrapped in surging waves of cloud sea form a fascinating scene in Brocade Valley. (by Yu Yuntian)**
4. **Donglin Temple on the northern side of Lushan is the birthplace of the Pure Land Sect of Buddhism in China. (by Dai Zhixian)**
5. **A villa of German architectural style on the shore of the Fiddle Lake (by Yin Xixiang)**

Landmarks of Ancient Civilisation

Defence Works, Residences and Cities



The Great Wall

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 11th Session of the Committee in 1987

Sections of previously-built fortifications were joined together by the first Qin-dynasty emperor Qin Shihuang around 220 B.C. to form a united defence system against invasions from the north. Further construction, up to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) made the Great Wall the world's largest military structure.

In the beginning, human beings lived in natural caves, which were later replaced by cottages, houses and towns. Then, fortresses and cities popped up. In China a city usually served as the political, economic and military centre of a state, prefecture or county. Besides its government offices and troops, a city also accommodated a fair number of common folks. At one time in history, China led the world in terms of the size of cities.

In addition, China boasts a national defence work unparalleled in the world — the Great Wall. A close study of the Great Wall reveals that China is by nature a peace-loving nation for it has always laid more stress on defence than assault.

Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 11th Session of the Committee in 1987

Remains of *Sinanthropus pekinensis*, who lived in the middle Pleistocene period, along with various objects, and Upper Cave Man of *Homo sapiens*, dating back 18,000 years, were discovered at Zhoukoudian. The site has offered insight into ancient Asian societies and also illustrates the process of evolution.

Ancient Pingyao City

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 21st Session of the Committee in 1997

This exceptionally well-preserved traditional Han Chinese city, founded in the 14th century, embodies architectural styles and town planning in China over five centuries. As China's banking centre in the 19th and early 20th centuries, it has many imposing buildings associated with banking.

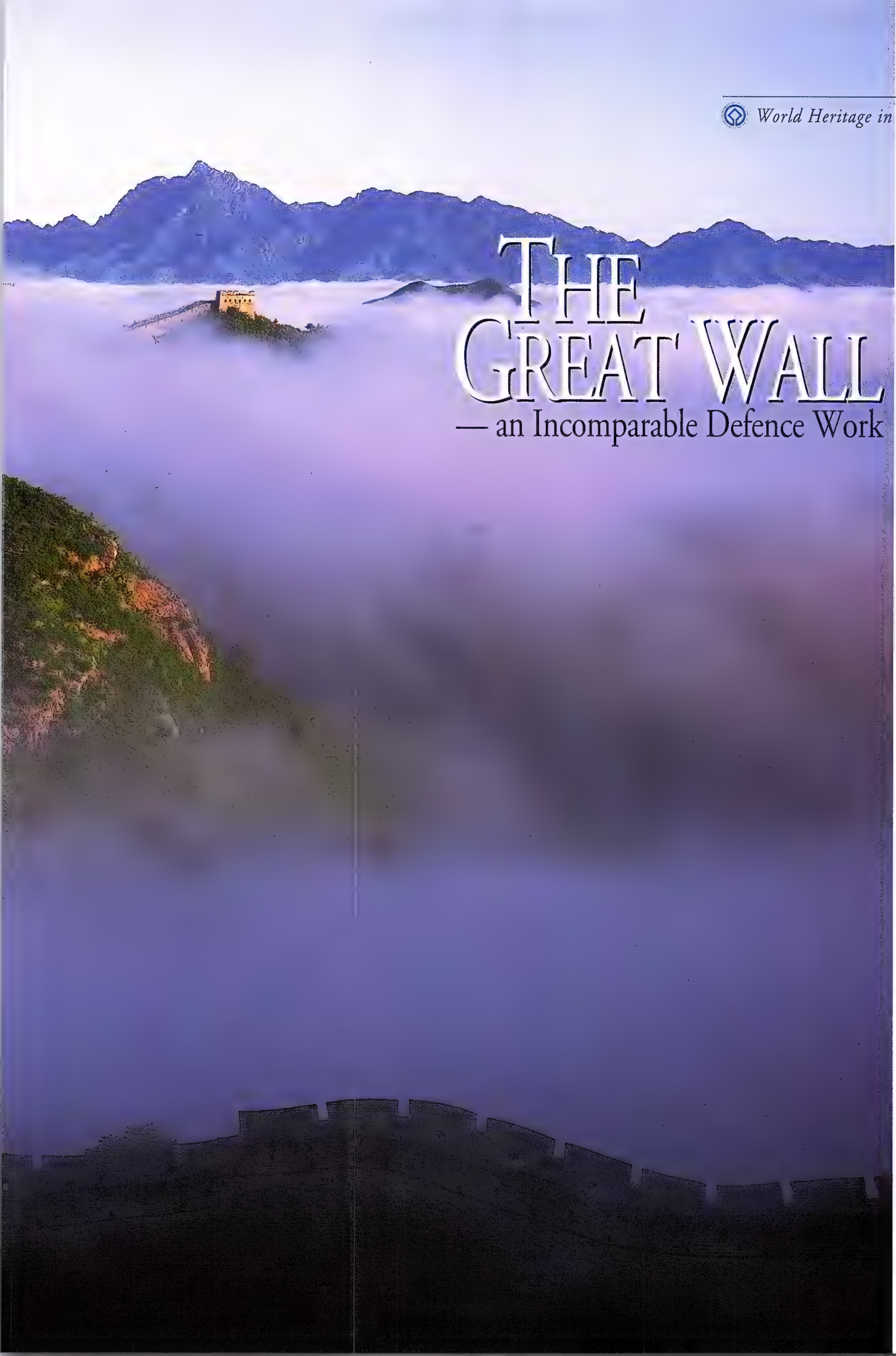
Lijiang Old Town

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 21st Session of the Committee in 1997

This old town, harmoniously fitting in with the topography, has retained its authentic architecture, which blended elements of several cultures through centuries of co-existence. Its ingenious and complex ancient water-supply system, that still functions, is also noteworthy.

THE GREAT WALL

— an Incomparable Defence Work



Previous page:
The Jinshanling section in the morning mist. The sections of the Great Wall in Beijing's suburban areas appear extremely lofty and imposing as they wind up and down along the mountain ridges. (by Lu Shunping)

1. Part of the Great Wall at Xifengkou in Qian'an County, Hebei Province, is submerged in the Panjiakou Reservoir. (by Lu Shunping)
2. The precipitous "club tower" on the Simatai section of the Great Wall (by Lu Shunping)
3. The earthen Ming-dynasty Great Wall at Wushaoling Ridge in Tianzhu County, Gansu Province (by Xie Guanghui)
4. Ruins of the Han-dynasty Great Wall at Dunhuang which extends into the Lop Nur desert in Xinjiang (by Xie Guanghui)
5. Dilapidated walls of an ancient fortress on the Great Wall at Jinshanling (by Xu Xuezhe)
6. Ming-dynasty Great Wall in Shandan County, Gansu Province (by Xie Guanghui)

THE GREAT WALL

The Great Wall, or Wanli Changcheng (10,000-*li* Long Wall), is one of the most typical military installations built in ancient China. The scale of the project is unparalleled and the hardships endured in its construction are beyond imagination. Therefore, it has been universally acknowledged as a great miracle in the history of architecture.

Walls were first built in the kingdoms of Qi and Lu in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) for protection. Later, other rival kingdoms and dukedoms joined in, including the powerful kingdoms of Chu, Qin, Wei, Zhao and Yan. Their walls along their borders aimed to ward off attacks from each other as well as resist aggression by the Xiongnus (the Huns, the nomadic tribes of the northern steppes) into the central plains.

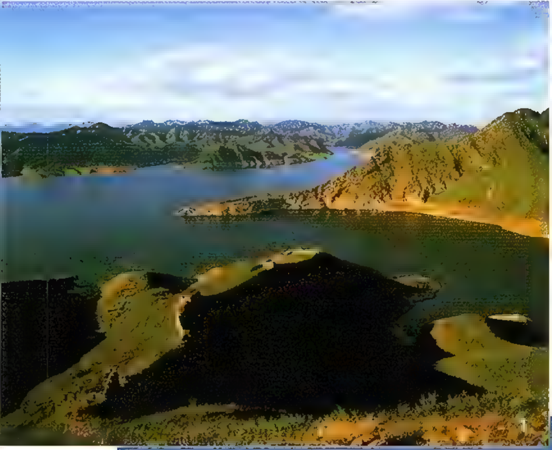
In 221 B.C., the Kingdom of Qin defeated its six major rivals, forced the Xiongnus back to the steppes and unified China. To perpetuate their victory and safety, the First Qin Emperor amassed great human and financial resources to construct the Great Wall. By linking up the sections previously built by the kingdoms of Qin, Yan and Zhao, the Qin empire expanded the wall further. The Qin Great Wall (with all its branches) ran from the Liaodong Peninsula (the northwestern arm of the Yellow Sea) in the east to Lintao, a point deep in the Northwest. Thus, people often relate the Great Wall to Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of united China. In fact, the Great Wall built by the Qin is a long way north of the Great Wall we see today. Later, new sections were added in the Han, Northern Wei, Northern Qi, Northern Zhou, Sui, Liao, Jin and Ming dynasties. The scale of construction was particularly great in the Han and Ming dynasties.

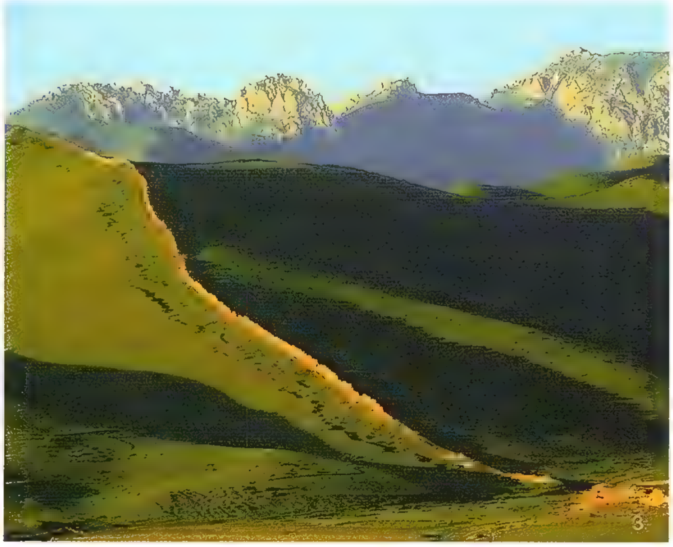
In the 2nd century B.C., the Great Wall was rebuilt under the orders of Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D.220). The newly built wall extended from Xinjiang through the present-day People's Republic of Mongolia, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China to Heilongjiang, totalling more than 10,000 kilometres. This could be said to be the heyday of northern extensions.

When the Tang Dynasty again unified China in the 7th century, its territory expanded to such an extent that all the walls built previously were within its territories. As the country was powerful, there appeared no need to build new walls in the following 800 years.

In the mid-14th century, Zhu Yuanzhang, founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty, again launched a massive drive to rebuild the Great Wall. Over 270 years of the Ming reign, the Great Wall was expanded on 18 occasions. The Ming wall ran from Shanhaiguan Pass in Hebei Province to Jiayuguan Pass in Gansu Province through Beijing, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia and Ningxia, totalling 12,700 *li* (6,350 kilometres). This is the Great Wall as it remains today. Since the Qing Dynasty, large-scale construction of the wall had basically stopped.

The Great Wall, said by some astronauts to be one of the most obvious man-made architectures on earth, has been listed as one of the seven wonders of the world today. Of the wall's extant sections, the



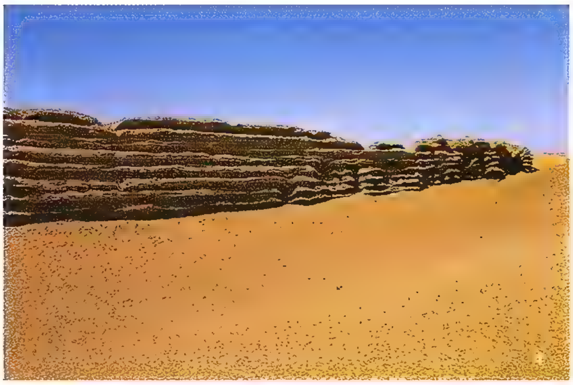


most visible ones are those in the vicinity of Beijing and Hebei, which were better built and preserved perhaps because these fortifications ensured the safety of the national capital and the emperors.

The Badaling section of the Great Wall is located about 70 kilometres northwest of Beijing, in Yanqing County. This section was built along the winding ridges of the Yanshan Mountains according to the contours. It engenders an extremely impressive view. Since Badaling served as the northwestern gate of the Ming Dynasty capital Beijing, the wall in this area is particularly high and solid.

The Simatai section of the Great Wall is located in Miyun County, some 120 kilometres from downtown Beijing. It starts from Wangjinglou (Capital-Watching Tower) in the east and links up with the Jinshanling section in the west. Mostly built on perpendicular mountain ridges, the wall often appears like a ladder to the sky. In some parts, it only allows one person at a time to pass. The wall's width and height here vary greatly. For instance, at the foot of the mountain it is five to six metres thick, while on top of a precipitous cliff it shrinks to only 0.4 metre. This kind of single-side fortified wall is called *tianqiao* (bridge to sky) and is a unique feature of the Simatai section. Although rising and falling sharply, this section has all the essential structures the other sections have — the wall, fortifications, watchtowers and parapets. In the most dangerous parts, the sheer mountain cliff is simply incorporated into the wall, with only watchtowers built on the peaks. This phenomenon is called *shanxianqiang*, or sheer mountain wall.

Around Beijing, other sections of the Great Wall are equally impressive: Jinshanling Great Wall, which extends 20 kilometres to connect Simatai and Gubeikou; Mutianyu section, which features crenels on both sides as well as fortifications that branch out from the wall; and Huangyaguan and Gubeikou within Tianjin's boundary.



5

6

RUINS AT ZHOUKOUDIAN

— Home of Peking Man

RUINS AT ZHOUKOUDIAN

1. **The Longgu Mountain area in Zhoukoudian is the home of Peking Man. (by Zhu Jianhui)**
2. **The domicile of Upper Cave Man (by Zhu Jianhui)**
3. **The restored image of Peking Man (by Zhu Jianhui)**
4. **The domicile of Peking Man (by Zhu Jianhui)**
5. **Being cave dwellers and able to use fire, Peking Man managed to survive the ice age. (Courtesy of the Zhoukoudian Museum)**

The Zhoukoudian ruins in Beijing's suburban Fangshan District are also known as the "home of Peking Man". The first person to see the ruins and realise their anthropological value was a Swedish palaeontologist named Anderson. In 1921, he heard of paleontological fossils in the Longgu Mountain area, and in 1923 he conducted a trial, small-scale excavation which yielded two tooth fossils. Formal excavation started in 1927, from which another tooth fossil was found. Based on studies of these three fossils, Davidson Black, a Canadian scholar who was then a professor at the Department of Anatomy in the Peking Union Medical College, put forward the concept of Peking Man (*Sinanthropus pekinensis*) as a new fossil human in the species of Homo erectus.

To name a new species of hominid, the evidence of only three fossil teeth was apparently insufficient. At 4 p.m. on December 2, 1929, Pei Wenzhong, a 25-year-old, recently graduated Chinese scholar, discovered the first skullcap of Peking Man from the 10th layer of red sandy clay at the No.1 site. This discovery provided irrefutable evidence of Peking Man's existence. Excavations in the next few decades up to 1966 yielded altogether five skullcaps. Of these, however, only the one discovered in 1966 is now on display in the Zhoukoudian Ruins Museum. The others were lost in the War of Resistance Against Japan during World War II. It is believed that some Americans had attempted to smuggle them out of China to the United States.

The ruins at Zhoukoudian were a karst cave formed in the Ordovician Period 450 million years ago. When it was found, the top of the cave had long disappeared. The sedimentary deposit in the cave exceeded 50 metres in thickness and the archaeologists divided it into 17 layers. Of course, the deeper the layer, the longer back in time. For instance, the scientists attributed the 14th-17th layers to the Early Pleistocene Period (over 730,000 years ago). The Peking Man fossils were discovered between the 3rd and 10th layers. Therefore, the scientists extrapolated that Peking Man had lived at Zhoukoudian 690,000 years ago.

The Concise Encyclopaedia Britannica, published in October 1985, clearly states that there was no doubt that Peking Man was the first to use fire. In recent years, however, some doubts have been raised about this, and so, this issue has once again become a hot topic in the world's academic circles.

During the long time span of Peking Man's existence, there was at least one interglacial period. However, several factors, supported by excavations, enabled these people to survive and adapt to the environmental changes in the Zhoukoudian area: they were cave dwellers; they could make simple tools (over 20,000 pieces of stone tools were excavated at Site No. 1); they could use fire (as evidenced by a thick layer of embers); and they had mastered the skills of collecting food and hunting (many plant seeds and over 1,000 deer skeletons were discovered at Site No. 1). Particularly, the skill in fire usage was of paramount importance. It helped them ward off the severe cold of winter and also cook, which is considered a crucial step in human evolution.

Even so, life was hard for Peking Man. According to paleontologists, 68.2 percent of them died before the age of 14, and those over 50 only accounted for 4.5 percent. From these figures, it can be inferred that the ecological environment was very harsh in the Zhoukoudian area then.

Another ruins site at Zhoukoudian is that of the Shandingdong Man, or Upper Cave Man, so named because it was found in a cave close to the top of Longgu Mountain. It was discovered in 1930. From subsequent excavations three skullcaps as well as some pelvic and limb bones were found. The Upper Cave Man belongs to the later *Homo sapiens* that lived about 18,000 years ago. Found along with these fossils were 25 pieces of stone tools, polished antlers and bone needles, bored shells, animal teeth, polished cobbles, stone beads and other bone products. Compared with Peking Man, Upper Cave Man showed some marked differences. It appears that a sort of "cultural evolution" occurred and these people paid more attention to beauty. This perhaps explains the discovery of certain primitive handicraft articles.

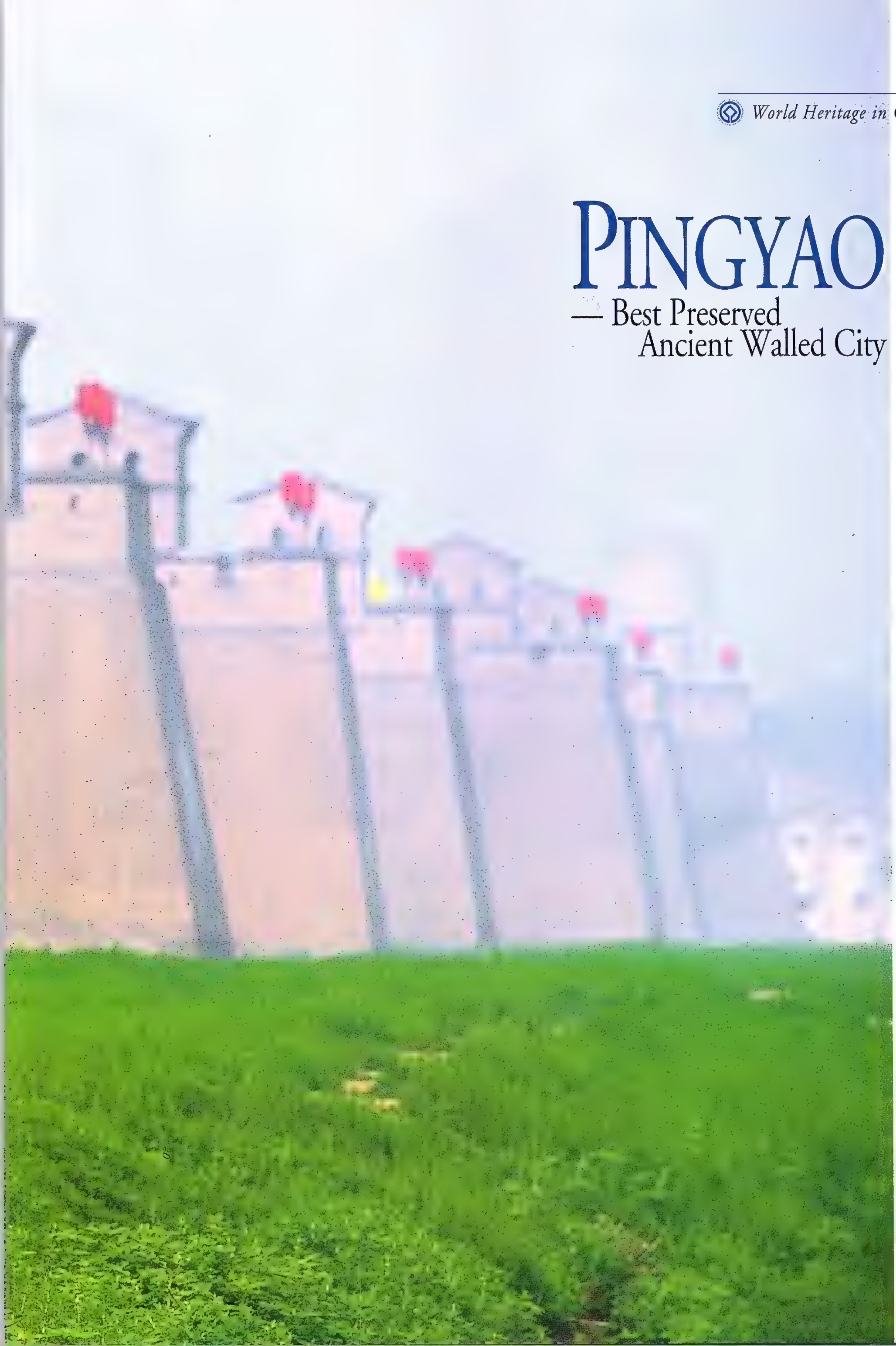
Another site called Xindong (New Cave), discovered in 1973, yielded a left frontal molar belonging to *Homo sapiens* of the early stage. They lived in the period between that of Peking Man and Upper Cave Man, which has been verified at about 100,000 years ago.

4

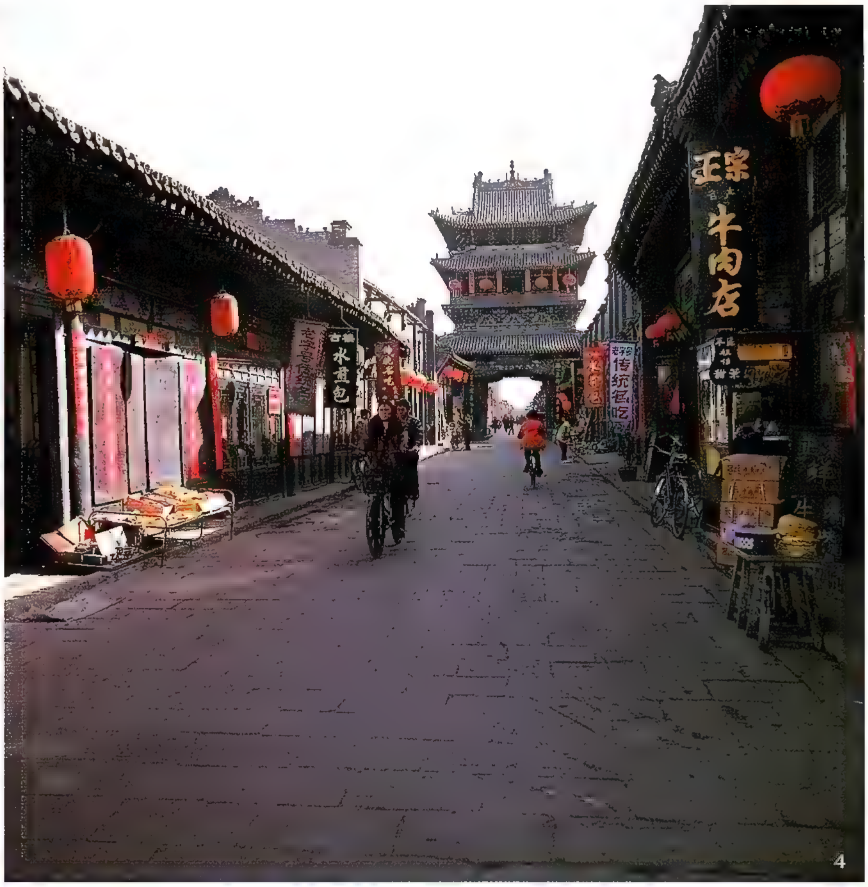
5

PINGYAO

— Best Preserved Ancient Walled City



1
传


王家
牛肉店
水煎包
传统名吃
4

观音堂
2

3

親翰
平遥城墙

PINGYAO

The ancient city of Pingyao in Shanxi Province was once a key strategic defence site. The city walls are high, thick and solid, with various defensive structures built both in and outside the city gates. The town served as a financial centre in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), with numerous banking establishments and many exquisitely decorated houses and residential courtyards. Many of these houses are well preserved.

In addition, Pingyao also serves as a superb example for the study of a county seat in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) — its operation system, street layout, folk residences and commercial activities.

In the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Taizu laid down the national policy of "building high walls, amassing grain and postponing the expansion plan". The call to build high walls referred to erecting high solid city walls to ward off armed invasions from the north as well as civil military conflicts. Pingyao, on the Fenhe Plain and without nearby mountains or rivers, was deprived of natural protection. Moreover, it was only about 100 kilometres south of Taiyuan, capital of today's Shanxi Province, which bordered the region of invading nomadic tribes. Therefore, it was of paramount importance for Pingyao to fortify itself.

The entire city of Pingyao, built in 1370, is square in shape. The city walls are 12 metres high and total 6.4 kilometres in length. The exterior is built of blue bricks and the interior filled with rammed earth. Outside the city, warning towers are built surrounding the city walls, and at each corner wall is a turret. Lining the four walls are 3,000 crenels and 72 warning stations, said to signify the 3,000 students and 72 principal disciples of Confucius. A moat, 3.3 metres wide and deep, surrounds the city. Each city gate used to have a drawbridge.

Pingyao is also known as Guicheng (Tortoise City), for its shape resembles a huge tortoise. The city has six gates — one each in the north and south, and two each in the east and west. Every gate juts out from the wall to form a barbican entrance. The south and north gates signify the head and tail of the tortoise, while the four east and west ones serve as the legs. Outside the south gate there are two wells, the tortoise's eyes. Moreover, the jutting part of the north gate turns east, indicating the tortoise's swinging tail. As the four east and west gates also turn slightly towards the head, they imply that the tortoise is crawling forward.

In the old days, the Pingyao area had a dense population and little cultivated land. Consequently, many local folks left to do business elsewhere. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, the footsteps of Pingyao businessmen were found throughout the country. By the mid-Qing in particular, due to business prosperity, a particular kind of shop, called *piaohao* (draft banks), appeared to deal in drafts or exchange of bills to facilitate the circulation of funds. By and by, this trade was largely monopolised by Shanxi merchants and Pingyao developed into China's draft bank centre. Rich Pingyao bank merchants put up sumptuous shops along the major streets and grand houses in deep quiet lanes, all in a strong Shanxi architectural style.

North of the junction of the city's four major streets, there is a tower that looks down over all other city buildings. Lining these four streets are a large number of shops. Most shops, usually two-storey structures, have three to five rooms with wood furnishings. The upper storey is used for storage while the lower one has business counters. Solidly built and imposing in appearance, all the buildings feature colourful paintings under the eaves and gorgeous carvings on the beams and pillars.

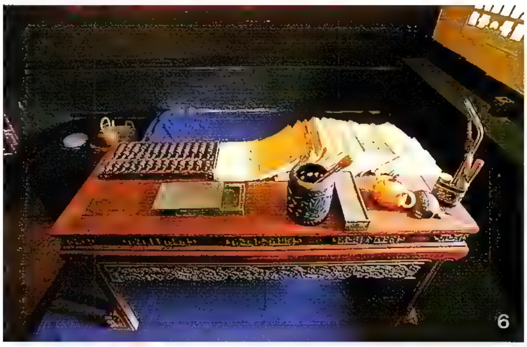
The Rishengchang Draft Bank, the oldest and the largest, is situated on the West Street. It is a compound composed of several rows of houses. The first row formerly housed counters and the accountant's office. The second row, a two-storey structure, contained staff dormitories and a guesthouse. The last row was reserved for distinguished guests and senior staff.

The merchants' residences in the back lanes are even more gorgeous — surrounded by high walls and decorated with wood, stone and brick carvings. Their gates appear particularly beautiful. The larger residences are composed of several quadrangles. Some residences have gardens beside or at the back of their principal buildings. Usually, the principal rooms of these residences are flat-topped and some have so-called wind-water towers on top. When the gables of the houses are 1.2 to1.5 metres thick, the courtyard walls reach seven to eight metres high. These make the residences appear like a line of small fortresses.

About seven kilometres southwest of Pingyao is the Shuanglin Temple which is famous for its painted sculptures.

Previous page:
Over the city walls of Pingyao, there are 72 fortifications. Such stress laid on defence was rarely seen in any other ancient cities throughout the country. (by Shi Zhiqiang)

1. **An ancient street during a festival (by Yuan Xuejun)**
2. **Qing Emperor Guangxu used this building in Pingyao as a temporary residence when he fled from the Allied Forces of the Western Powers. (by Yuan Xuejun)**
3. **Inside this imposing house, all tables and chairs are from the Qing Dynasty. (by Xiaogang)**
4. **At the junction of Pingyao's four major streets, there is a building towering over all other structures in the city. (by Yuan Xuejun)**
5. **Each city gate is a barbican entrance. Any enemy breaking into it would be surrounded and wiped out. (by Xiaogang)**
6. **The office table (laid on a brick bed) used by the owner of the Rishengchang Draft Bank (by Xiaogang)**
7. **This ancient-looking small courtyard has now been turned into a restaurant. (by Xiaogang)**

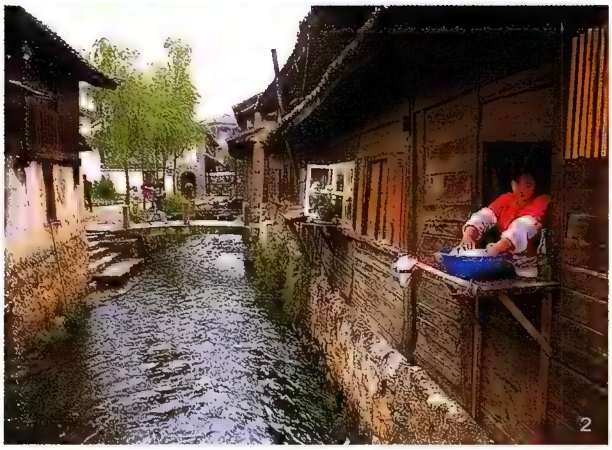


LIJIANG

— Simple and Mysterious Old Town on the Highland

寿
東巴字頌金甌復磬吐元揚着

1



2

LIJIANG

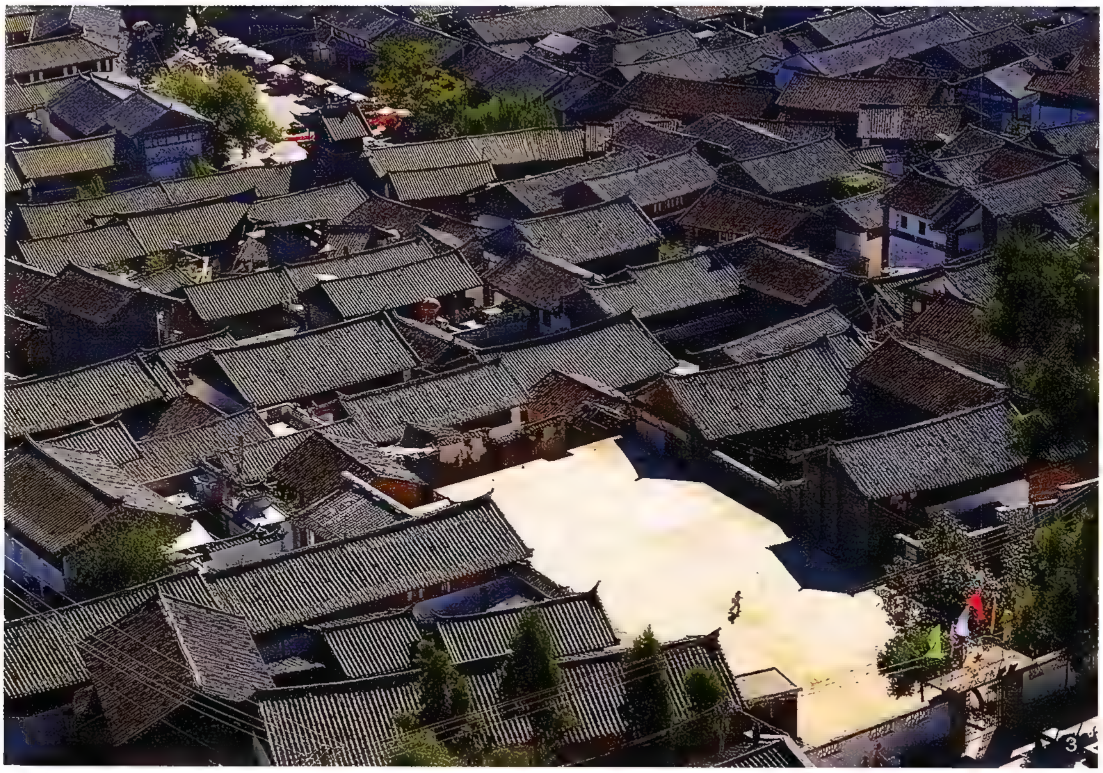
Lijiang, located in a region where the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau transforms into the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, is a simple and unsophisticated ancient city. The old section, Dayan Town, got its name from its inkstone-like topography — mountains and waters surrounding the town on all four sides. The town features uniquely styled folk houses with clear streams criss-crossing amidst them. Most residents are Naxis who have their own unique written language, music, songs and dance. All these render to the city a rich simple, yet mysterious cultural atmosphere.

Most of the old roads in the town are paved with colourful stone slabs, bordered by gurgling clear streams. A stream often suddenly vanishes only to pop up in another street or past a courtyard. Sometimes a stream runs parallel with a street or lane and each family will build a small bridge across it in front of their houses. A traditional residence is of brick-and-timber structures, with three houses and one screen wall. The foundation is usually made of stone; the middle section is adobe or brick, while the upper section is circled with timber. The eaves stretch out and on both ends of the ridge-pole and beams are two "wind-fire timber slats" to protect those extended wooden parts. More often than not, these slats are carved with various auspicious patterns or made in a fish shape. Hence, they get the name "hanging fish", signifying the local people's wish for a happy, prosperous life.

Most principal houses are multi-storied and furnished with a door of six partition wooden plates exquisitely carved with flower, plant, bird and animal motifs.

The Naxi people, the majority of the residents in Dayan, are known for their love of flowers. In each courtyard one is bound to find such elegant flowers as plum blossoms, sweet-scented osmanthus, camellia and orchids planted in flower beds that have cobbled paths in various patterns.

Concerts are often held in Dayan and the performers are mostly elderly local musicians. It is believed that the ancient music of Lijiang is in fact the Taoist music of the Central Plains which was spread to the Lijiang region along with Taoism in the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Among the over 50 pieces that have been passed down, 20 are most frequently played, including *The Old Man by the Clear River, Ode to a Small White Water Dragon, Goats on a Mountain Slope, Everlasting Happiness, Auspicious Occasions, The Eight Diagrams, The Coming of Spring, The Coming of Autumn, The Coming of Winter and Lang Tao Sha.*



3

In addition, there is *Refined Music of Baisha* (named after the Baisha Town, which is also part of Lijiang). It is said the music's origin goes back to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Once, Kublai Khan led his troops on an expedition to South China and befriended the Naxi chieftain. To show his condescending generosity, he left some musicians from his imperial band to the Naxi chieftain and ordered them to compose this piece to mark the event.

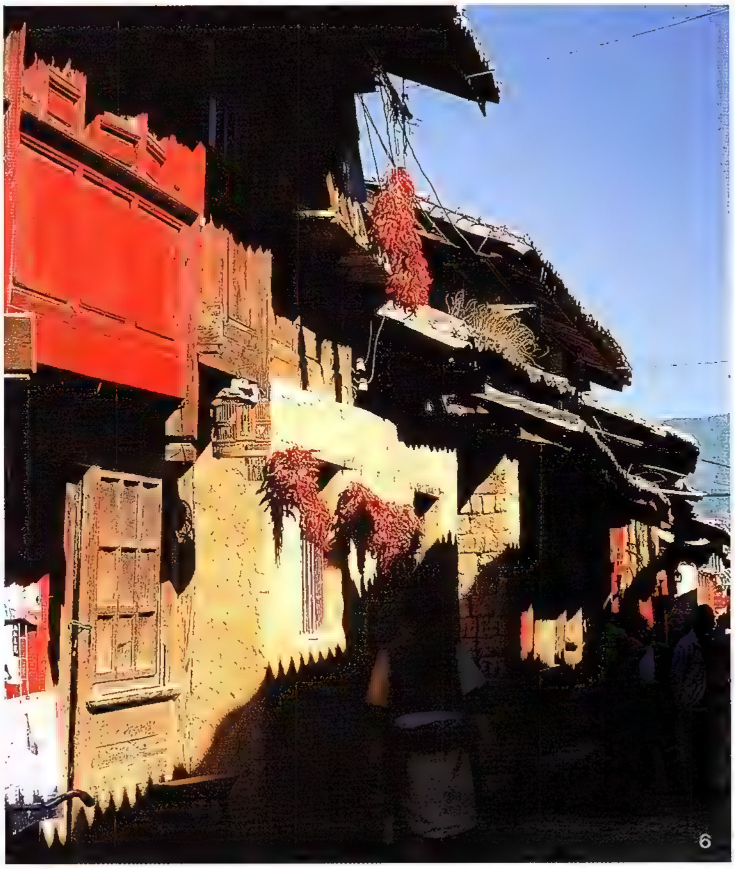
The Dongba religion refers to the Naxis' primitive polytheism. It is thus called because the Naxi people called their necromancers *dongba*. This religion preaches animism and believes that a soul never vanishes. The tenets of the religion were written on thick paper by the necromancers over generations with pointed bamboo or bronze pens which were dipped into a sort of ink produced by mixing pine torch black with wine, mucilage and animals' bile.

The Dongba scripture was written in Dongba or Geba script. Dongba script is composed of ancient Naxi pictograph characters. In the Dongba language, it is called *senjiu lujiu*, meaning characters imitating the shapes of wood and stone, which total over 2,200. The Geba script is the simplified form of the Dongba script with characters borrowed from the Han Chinese.

The Dongba Dance is one that is performed during sacrificial ceremonies, which are usually presided over by the Naxi necromancers. It has a rich content and includes not only dance movements imitating birds and animals but also war dances performed by ancient warriors before setting out and after a victory. Whenever folks wish to get rid of an evil spirit, release deceased souls from purgatory, make sacrifices to Heaven or Earth, or pray to Heaven for offspring, they would invite the necromancers to perform the dance and chant the scriptures.

The murals in the monasteries and temples of Lijiang are also very unique. In China, there has always been the tradition of combining the doctrines of Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. Yet, in terms of murals, most temples and monasteries in the hinterland would only house murals that illustrate their respective doctrines. However, the murals in Lijiang's temples bring together, in one hall and even in one picture, all the icons or deities of Buddhism and Taoism. In addition, the artistic presentation of most murals demonstrates the two different styles of Han Chinese Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism.

Translated by Li Zhenguo



Previous page:
Ancient Naxi music concert provides the tourists with a chance to enjoy this ancient, primitive music. (by Guanghui)

1. **The Yulong (Jade Dragon) Snowy Mountain serves as a protective barrier to the ancient town of Dayan. (by Guanghui)**
2. **Lijiang is also known as "a city on water", where streams commonly flow by doors or windows of houses. (by Peng Zhenge)**
3. **Old folk houses in Lijiang (by Yu Yuntian)**
4. **The principal room of each house is furnished with a six-plate carved door. (by Guanghui)**
5. **Plain and gloomy coloured dress of Naxi women (by Yu Yuntian)**
6. **Under the eaves, you see the customs. (by Yu Yuntian)**

Religious Culture and Art

Crystallisation of Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism

Mogao Grottoes on the Silk Road

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 11th Session of the Committee in 1987

The Mogao Grottoes are situated in Dunhuang, a strategic point on the Silk Road which spanned commercial, cultural and religious exchanges between China and foreign countries in ancient times. The [illegible] Buddhist sculptures and frescos that cover a period of over 1,000 years.

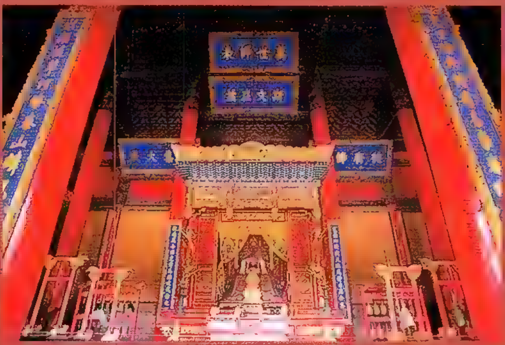
Confucianism and Taoism, which are indigenous to China, and Buddhism, which found its way into China from India, have each marked the country with a rich cultural legacy. As mainstream religions in ancient China, they have all made distinctive contributions to the Chinese culture.

These three religions differ in many ways, including architecture, and even the terms they use to refer to their temples and monasteries. Idolatry, however, is a common trait to all three. Temples were built to turn mountains or even the great wilderness into religious sanctuaries, and murals and sculptures produced to disseminate religious doctrines.

Ancient Building Complex on Wudang Mountain

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 18th Session of the Committee in 1994

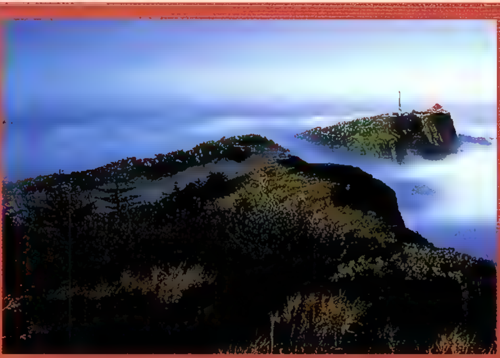
This organised complex of ancient buildings on Wudang Mountain in Hubei Province was first built during the Ming Dynasty. The numerous palaces, temples and dwellings exemplifies Chinese architecture of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. There are also well-preserved 7th-century Taoist buildings on the mountain.



Confucius Temple, Cemetery and Mansion in Qufu

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 18th Session of the Committee in 1994

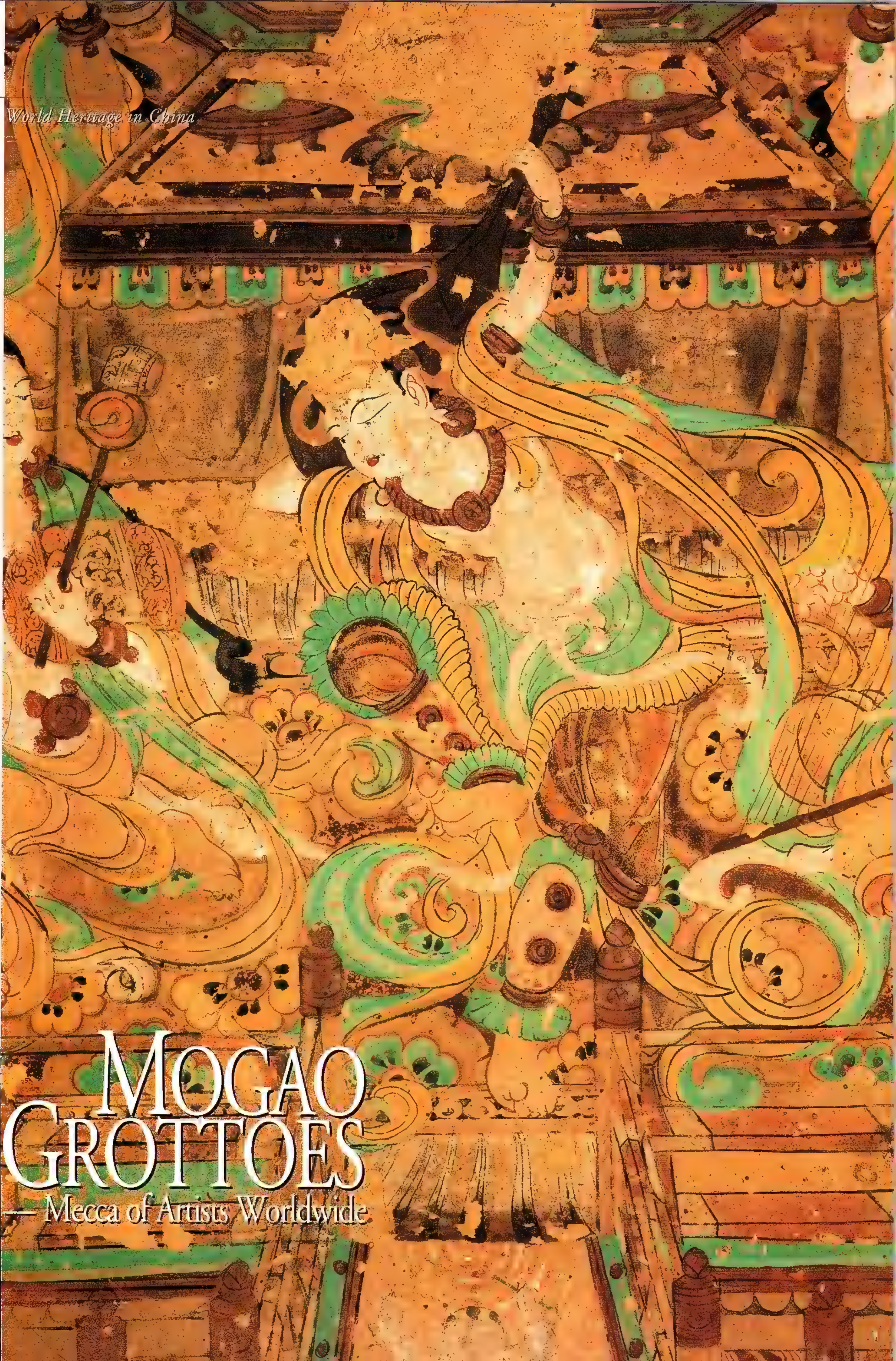
The temple, cemetery and family mansion of Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, thinker and educator of the 6th to 5th centuries B.C., are found in Qufu, Shandong Province. For over 2,000 years, these historical sites have been well maintained as symbols of Confucianism, which is considered as an inseparable part of the Chinese civilisation.



Mount Emei and Leshan Giant Buddha

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 20th Session of the Committee in 1996

After China's first Buddhist temple was built on Mount Emei in Sichuan Province, the mountain eventually became a major Buddhist sanctuary as more temples were built there over the following centuries. The Giant Buddha at Leshan, built in the 8th century, is part of Emei's cultural heritage. At 71 metres tall, it is the world's largest Buddhist sculpture. Mount Emei is known for its diversified vegetation and 1,000-year-old trees.



MOGAO GROTTOES

— Mecca of Artists Worldwide

MOGAO GROTTOES

The Mogao Grottoes, also known as Thousand-Buddha Caves, are situated on the western bank of the Daquan Gully 25 kilometres southeast of Dunhuang, in Gansu Province. The first grotto was built in 366. Legend says that when Monk Le Zun travelled to Dunhuang, he spotted golden rays cast on the three mountains in the east, and thousands of Buddha's images making their presence visible in the setting sun. Regarding this as a portent of a Buddhist sanctuary, he raised money and had a grotto dug into the craggy mountain. When the news spread, the merchants and officials travelling on the Silk Road followed suit in an appeal for blessings from the Buddha for a safe journey. By the reign of Empress Wu Zetian of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), more than 1,000 grottoes had been dug there. Today 492 still exist, attributed to such periods as the Northern Wei, Western Wei, Northern Zhou, Sui, Tang, Five Dynasties, Song, Western Xia and Yuan.

All the grottoes are scooped out of the eastern cliff of the Mingsha Mountain, arranged in five rows that extend north to south for about 1,600 metres. It is the world's oldest, richest, and best preserved treasure house of culture and art. Sheltered in these grottoes are a total of 45,000 square metres of frescos and 2,400 painted sculptures. If all the frescos were linked together, they could form a splendid art gallery more than 30 kilometres long. A special school of research, the Dunhuang Studies, has developed based on the frescos, sculptures, religious scriptures, documents, and silk paintings as well as other precious artefacts in the Mogao Grottoes.

The Mogao Grottoes form a museum of three-dimensional art that combines architecture, sculpture and painting. The grottoes come in three forms: caves with a central pillar, those in the shape of an inverted funnel, and square halls. Temple halls, linked with plank paths by wooden corridors, had

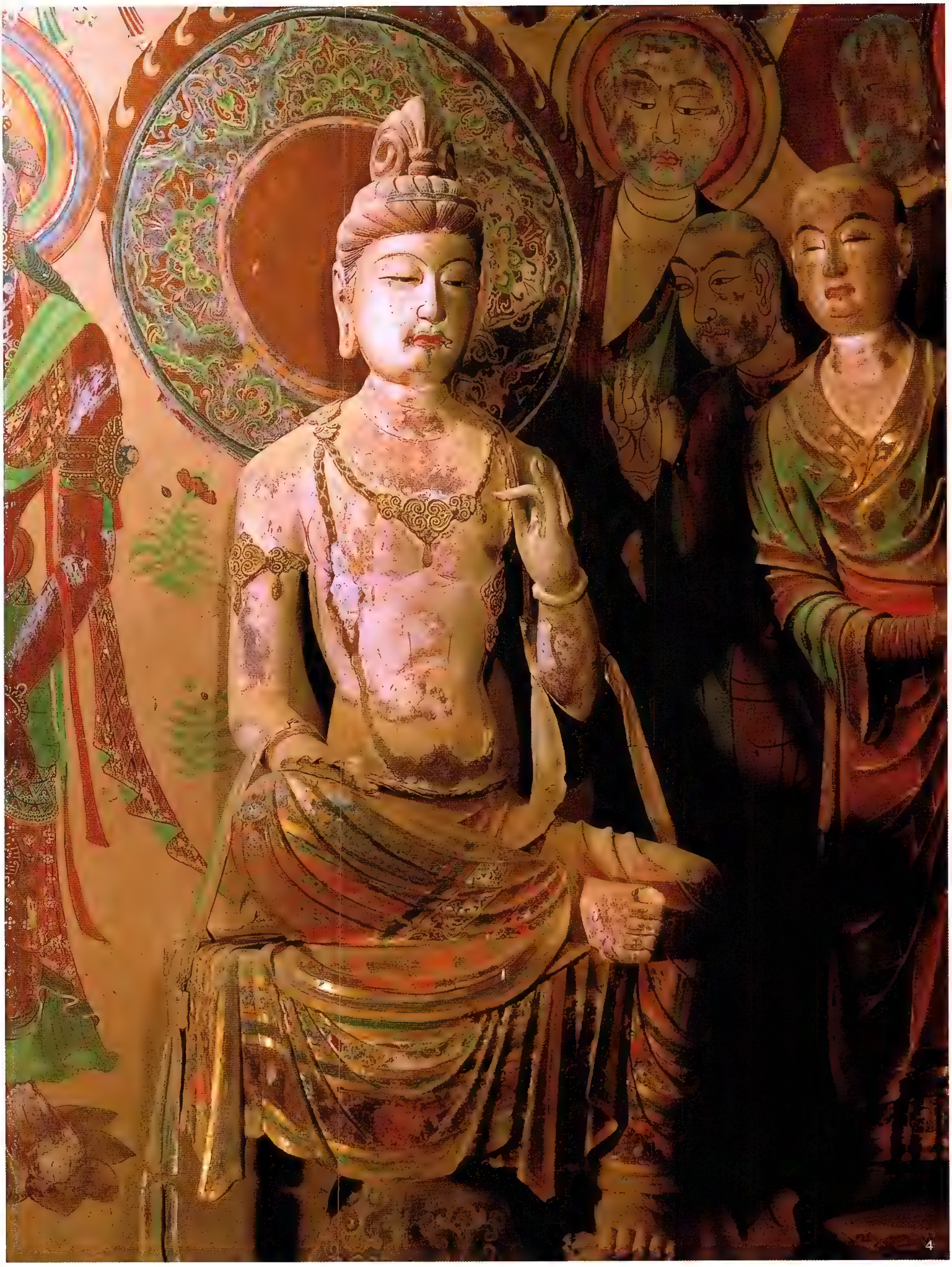
1. The frescos of the Mogao Grottoes are rich in variety and high in artistic value. (by Wang Miao)
2. The Northern Zhou painting of Bodhisattvas in Cave 428 (by Wang Miao)
3. Construction of the Mogao Grottoes began on the eastern side of the Mingsha Mountain in 366. The 1899 discovery of the Cave of Scriptures resulted in a new world-wide discipline of learning, the Dunhuang Studies. (by Xie Guanghui)

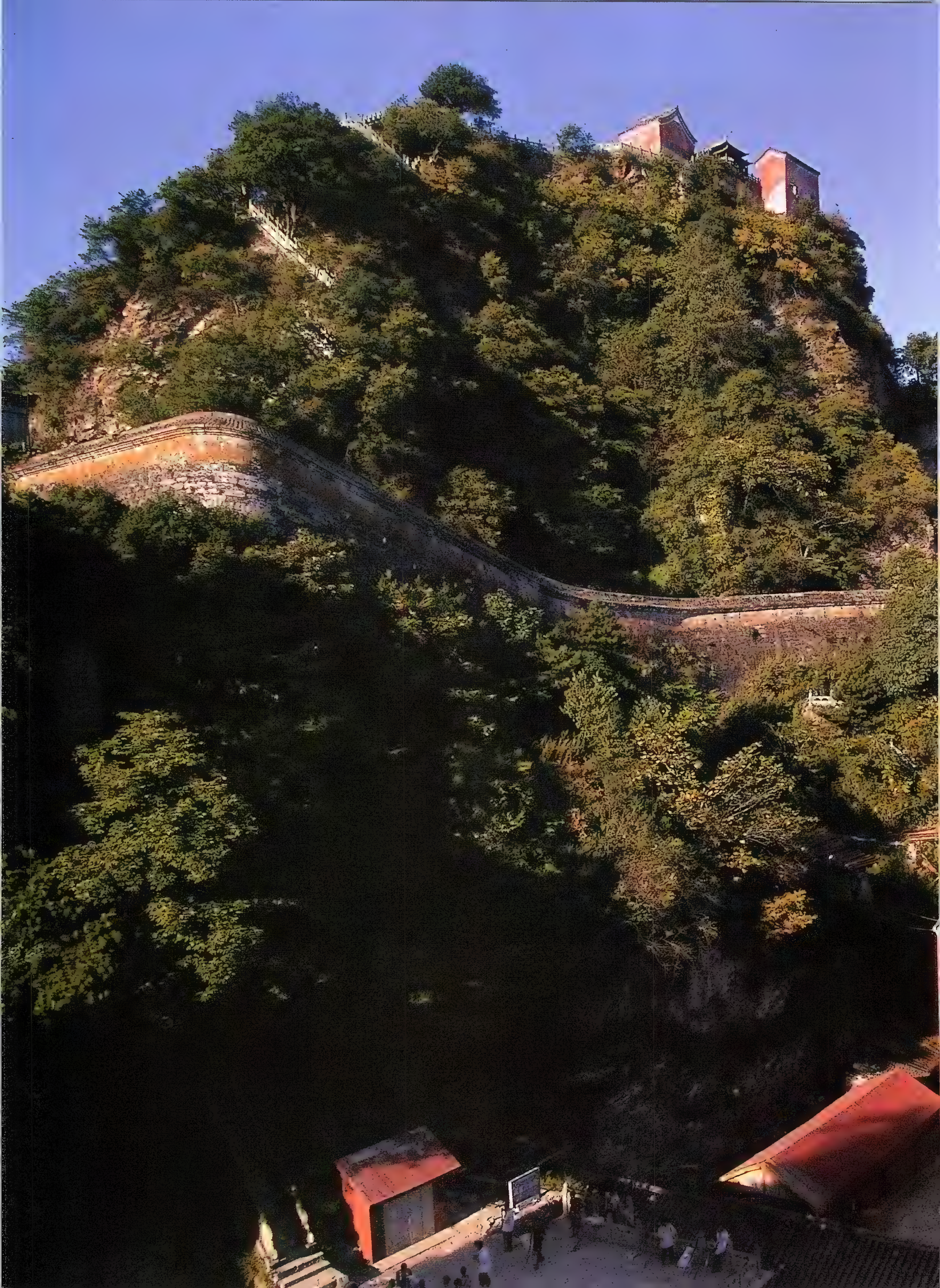
1. **Many temple-caves are graced with finely done paintings and patterns, such as this caisson ceiling. (by Wang Miao)**
2. **The Cave of Scriptures (Cave 17) was built in the late Tang Dynasty and brought to light in 1899. On the northern wall is a painting showing the Tang rendition of a tree with a servant maid holding a bolt of cloth and a walking stick. (by Wang Miao)**
3. **A typical Mogao cave dug in the early stage (by Wang Miao)**
4. **The late-Tang sculpture of a Bodhisattva in Cave 14 (by Wang Miao)**

been built outside these grottoes, but today they are no more. The statues, housed singly or in groups in the grottoes, are fashioned out of clay. In a typical grotto, a statue of the Buddha is positioned in the centre and flanked with his disciples, Bodhisattvas, heavenly kings or warriors, with the number of statues ranging from three to more than a dozen. Most of the statues are rendered in a wide range of exaggerated images. The largest cave is 30 metres square and more than 40 metres in height. The frescos cover a variety of motifs, including Buddhist deities, religious tales, mythology and images of patrons. One of those depicting people's activities is entitled *The Journey of Zhang Yichao and His Wife*. Mogao possesses the oldest map, that of Mount Wutai, which is more than 40 square metres in size.

After Buddhist scriptures were discovered in Cave 17 in 1899 near the end of the Qing Dynasty, Westerners descended on the place and made away with large amounts of precious cultural artefacts. Cave 17, dug in the wall of the corridor of Cave 16, is a square-like affair in the shape of an inverted funnel 2.5-2.7 metres wide and three metres high. The records left in the cave had been kept up to the 995-997 period in the early Song Dynasty. The Bodhisattvas painted on the walls of the corridor are from Song Dynasty, which indicates that Cave 17 was hurriedly sealed in the early 11th century before the monks fled the Western Xia troop's attack. These monks never returned, however, and as a result the cave fell into oblivion for 900 years. It was not until 1899, when silt was being cleaned out of the corridor of Cave 16, that Cave 17 was accidentally brought to light as a depository of over 50,000 cultural artefacts — scriptures, documents, embroideries and paintings. One sixth of the documents were written in Tibetan, Sanskrit and other ethnic languages, while the rest were in Chinese. The written materials include large numbers of Buddhist and Taoist scriptures and Confucian classics, history books, poetry, novels, folk literature, local gazetteers, residence registrations, accounting books, contracts, letters, and imperial documents, as well as books and artefacts from the 4th to the 14th centuries. The discovery of Cave 17 was a major event in the Chinese and international academic circles.

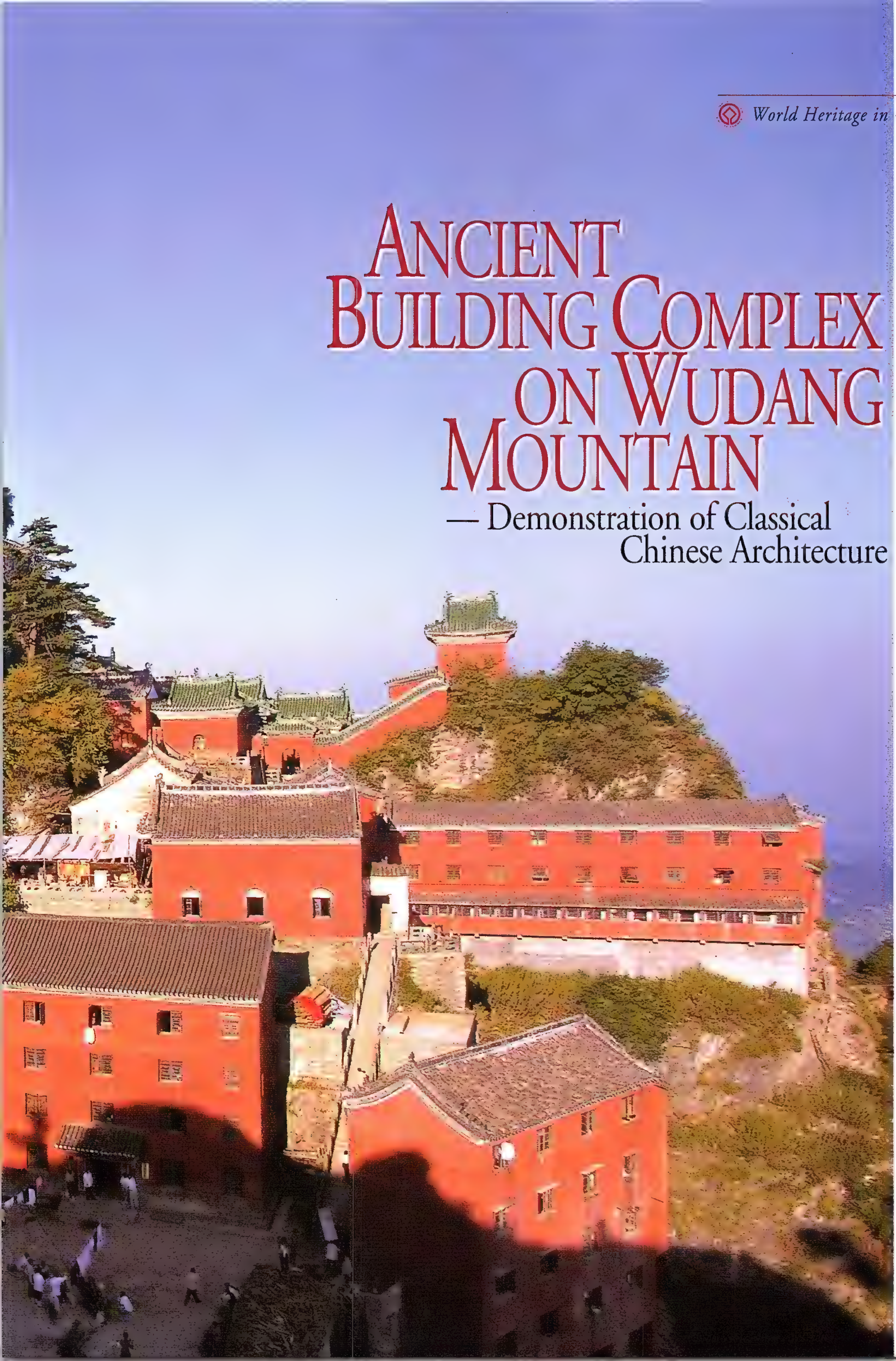
The Western Thousand-Buddha Caves are considered part of the Mogao Grottoes. They run from east to west on the cliffs on the northern bank of the Danghe River, more than 20 metres above the river bed with the gobi desert forming their top. Digging of these caves began in the late Northern Dynasties and continued during the Sui, Tang, Five Dynasties, early Song and Western Xia. Today a total of 19 caves are left of that cluster, whose frescos and sculptures belong to the same system as the Mogao Grottoes, and for this reason, they are regarded as a branch of Dunhuang Art.


4

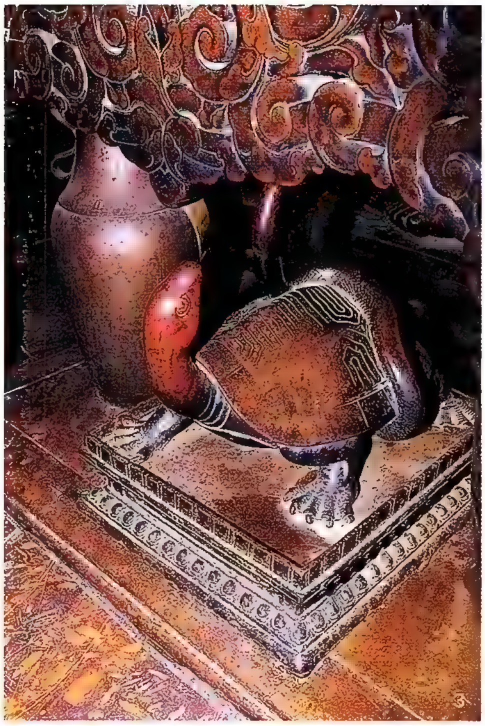


ANCIENT BUILDING COMPLEX ON WUDANG MOUNTAIN

— Demonstration of Classical Chinese Architecture



ANCIENT BUILDING COMPLEX ON WUDANG MOUNTAIN



Also known as Chenshang Mountain or Taiping Mountain, Wudang Mountain in Danjiangkou, northwest Hubei Province, is an 800-kilometre-long mountain range known for the Wudang school of martial arts. The mountain's 72 peaks, 36 cliffs, 24 streams, 11 caves, three pools, nine springs, 10 ponds, nine wells, 10 rocks and nine terraces combine to form a natural spectacle and a famed scenic resort. It is, however, better known for its ancient structures whose scale is believed to have exceeded that of any of China's Five Sacred Mountains.

During the Tang Dynasty 1,300 years ago, the Wulong (Five-Dragon) Temple was built on Wudang Mountain to disseminate Taoism. With the gradual increase in the number of Taoist buildings, the mountain became a famed sanctuary for Taoism. The idol of the Wudang school of Taoism was Zhenwu, God of Real Martial Arts. This explains why it is now called Wudang Mountain, meaning "mountain representing real martial arts".

The raising of buildings continued during the later Song and Yuan dynasties, but most of them were destroyed in wars and fires towards the end of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Most of the temples of the existing complex were built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In 1413, Zhu Di, or Emperor Chengzu, dispatched Vice-Minister of Works Guo Jin, Duke of Longping, Zhang Xin, and Commandant-Escort Mu Xin to supervise large-scale construction at Wudang Mountain. It took nearly 10 years for the 10,000 conscripts sent to the work-sites on a monthly basis to complete the eight palaces (Jingle, Ying'en, Yuzhen, Yuxu, Zixiao, Nanyan, Wulong and Taihe), two temples (Fuzhen and Yuanhe), 36 summons halls and 72 cliff temples. These formed 33 major architectural clusters with a total of 20,000 rooms. In addition, there were 70 kilometres of stone-paved footpaths, 39 bridges and 20 pavilions and terraces. The whole area covering a total of 160 hectares was turned into the domain of God Zhenwu. Major structures existing to this day include the Jindian (Golden Hall), Zixiao (Purple Cloud) Palace, Yuzhen Palace and Fuzhen Palace. The buildings are elaborately constructed and ingeniously laid out according to the contours of the topography. While each building looks unique in its own right, they are also linked to form a tastefully spaced cluster in the tradition of classical Chinese architecture.

The Golden Hall is poised on the Tianzhu Peak, the mountain's main peak. Built in 1416, it is the largest gilded bronze structure in China, standing 5.5 metres high, 5.8 metres wide and 4.2 metres deep. The hall's pillars and beams and caisson ceiling are embellished with impeccable designs. Hanging from the caisson is a gilded pearl, which is supposed to keep the mountain wind at bay so that the lamps in the hall could burn forever. Actually, the hall is free from the mountain wind because all the components of the hall were accurately cast and seamlessly connected. Housed in the Golden Hall is a 10-ton bronze statue of God Zhenwu. Below is Zijin City's 1,500-metre-long walls built of huge oblong stone slabs.

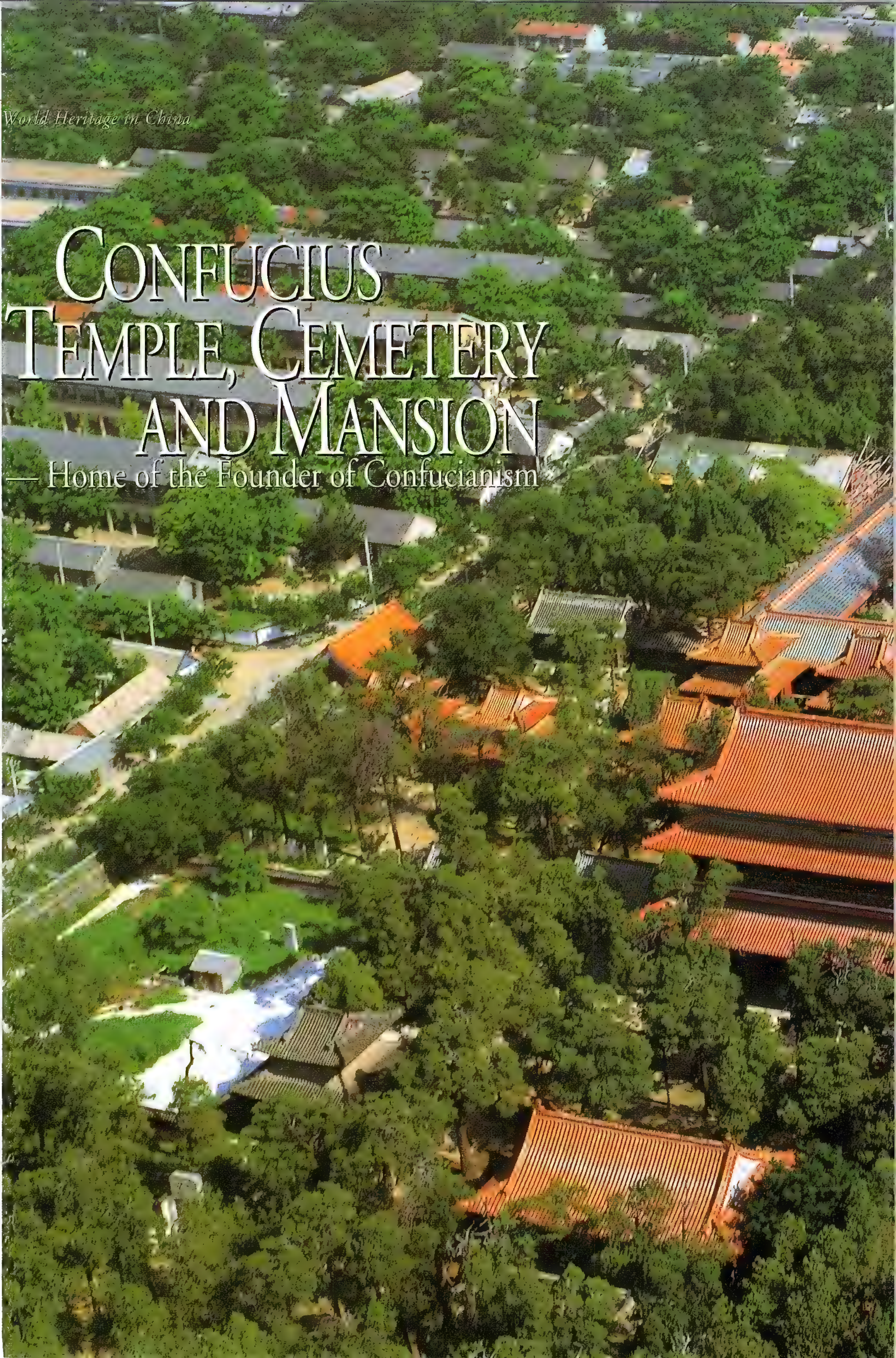
The Zixiao Palace, built in 1413, is the centrepiece as well as the best-preserved structure of Wudang. A total of 860 halls, pavilions and corridors are scattered one on top of the other along a mountain path which begins at the Eastern Heavenly Gate.

Previous page:
With crimson walls and rooftops covered with green tiles, the Taihe Palace on the Tianzhu Peak resembles the abodes of immortals. (by Xie Guanghui)

1. **The Neijia-style boxing of Wudang Mountain is marked by its smooth movements, high mental concentration and combination of softness and force. (by Xie Guanghui)**
2. **Ornamentation on one of the corner eaves of the Golden Hall (by Xie Guanghui)**
3. **A combined turtle and snake, a treasure of the Golden Hall (by Shan Xiaogang)**
4. **The Golden Hall on the Tianzhu Peak is a Ming-dynasty structure under a double-eave roof. It is entirely cast of bronze and gilded. One of its pillars is imbedded with a gold ingot, hence its name. (by Xie Guanghui)**
5. ***Liu Hai Frolics with Golden Frog*, a treasure of Mount Wudang (by Xie Guanghui)**

CONFUCIUS TEMPLE, CEMETERY AND MANSION

— Home of the Founder of Confucianism



CONFUCIUS TEMPLE, CEMETERY AND MANSION

Qufu in Shandong Province is the birthplace of Confucius (Kong Zi), who founded Confucianism during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.). The Confucius Temple, Cemetery and Mansion form the mecca for worshippers of Confucius.

As a thinker who created the Doctrine of the Mean, an educator who initiated the theory of "teaching students according to their aptitude", and a politician who called for "restraining oneself and restoring the rites", Confucius seems worthy of all the honour showered on him for his outstanding contribution to world culture.

Almost every county in China has a Confucius Temple for his commemoration, but the largest is found in the thinker's hometown, Qufu. The Qufu Confucius Temple, with buildings stretching over one kilometre south to north, covers an area of 21.8 hectares. Its 400-odd halls and chambers are spread over nine courtyards, which combine to form a monumental architectural phenomenon.

The impressive Dacheng Hall, the centrepiece of the temple, is a splendid 32-metre-tall structure on an area of 1,836 square metres. In the facade of the hall stand 10 stone pillars, each is carved with two huge, vivacious dragons. The statue of Confucius enshrined in the hall is 3.3 metres tall, and is flanked by sculptures of his disciples Yan Hui, Zeng Can, Kong Ji and Meng Ke. There are also statues of 12 other philosophers in the hall. With a collection of over 2,000 stone tablets, this temple is regarded as a museum of Chinese calligraphy, sketches and sculptures.

The Confucius Mansion was the residence of the great philosopher's descendants. According to family rules, only each generation's eldest son had the

Previous page:
An aerial view of the Confucius Temple, a 21.8-hectare complex of over 400 halls in nine courtyards (by Liu Zhenqing)

right to live there. The buildings, over 400 halls, chambers and pavilions, were completed during the Ming and Qing dynasties, and spread out over 16 hectares. The front of the nine-courtyard mansion was a governmental office, while the residential quarters were in the rear, off-limits to visitors. Instruments of torture bestowed by the emperors were placed in the quarters, and trespassers were beaten to death without argument. It is said that once during the late Qing Dynasty, when the quarters caught fire and the female residents called for help, all the male servants could do was to watch helplessly as seven buildings burned down.

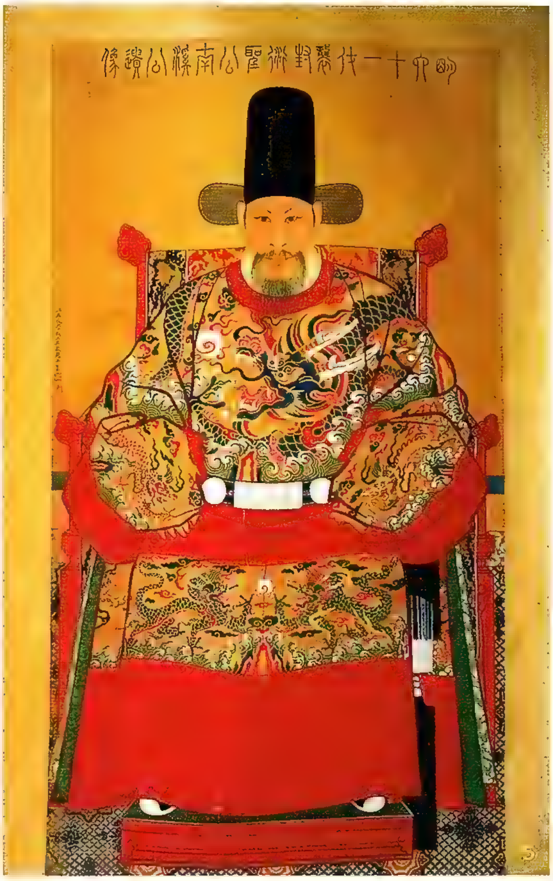
Among the Confucius Mansion's collection of precious cultural artefacts are many gifts from the emperors. It is said that when a princess of Qing emperor Qianlong was married to Confucius' family, she arrived with a trousseau of over 1,000 trunks.

The Confucius Cemetery in the north of Qufu is a 200-hectare affair with a history spanning 2,400 years. The tomb of Confucius, moderate in size, is in the centre of the cemetery. Kong Li, his son, is buried to its east and grandson Kong Ji is buried to the south, in a layout designed to show that the great thinker was taking his son by the hand and embracing the grandson in his other arm.

Confucius died in April 479 B.C. in the State of Lu. After the funeral, his disciples mourned for three years, but one named Zi Gong went even farther: he built a hut by the tomb and kept his deceased teacher company for six years. Each spring, he planted trees around the tomb. Later generations followed suit and planted trees in the cemetery every year, so that today the cemetery is covered with a forest of more than 20,000 ancient trees, many of which are over 1,000 years old. But the graves increased faster than trees — there are over 100,000 of them.

Accounts of life behind the walls of the Confucius Mansion can be found in *Anecdotes about the Residential Quarter of the Confucius Mansion*. Published in March 1982 by the Tianjin People's Publishing House, the book is based on accounts by Kong Demao, a 77th-generation descendent of Confucius. According to the book, a family rule decries that all the utensils and objects in the mansion should be kept without change. That is why the 130-odd cultural relics in the Zhongshu Hall, including a gilded flower pot, ancient bronze jars, jade flowery baskets, tiny bronze tripods, a zither stand, imperial collections of poetry and prose, imperial documents of various dynasties, and landscape paintings by Tang Bohu, have been well preserved to this day in their original positions.

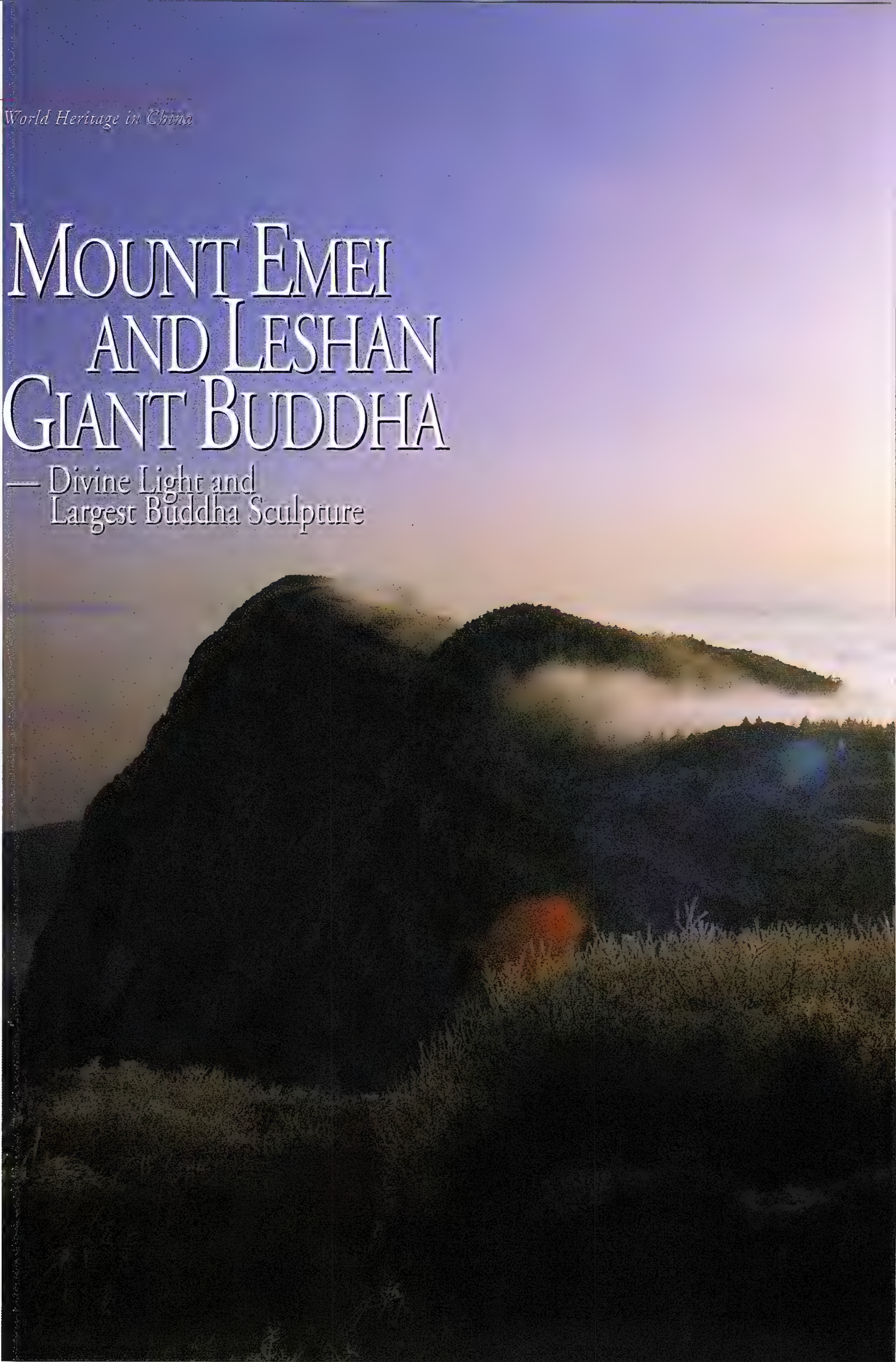
The Confucius Mansion is known for its exquisite embroidery in the Shandong tradition, which was kept alive by hiring people to raise the silkworms and weave the fabrics. There were strict rules governing attire. Men wore hats and short jackets over long gowns, women were attired in blue garments and black cloth shoes, and young women could wear their hair in a large plait fastened in place with red wool. Bed sheets were blue homespun cloth with white flowery patterns. Although every year large amounts of expensive clothing were purchased by the family, they were rarely worn. A scroll hung on the wall of the mansion's hall of protocols was inscribed with 30 Chinese characters bestowed by Emperor Qianlong as part of the given names for each generation. As Yan Hui, Mencius, and Zeng Zi were also regarded as sages, their descendants' names were also allowed to follow these 30 characters.

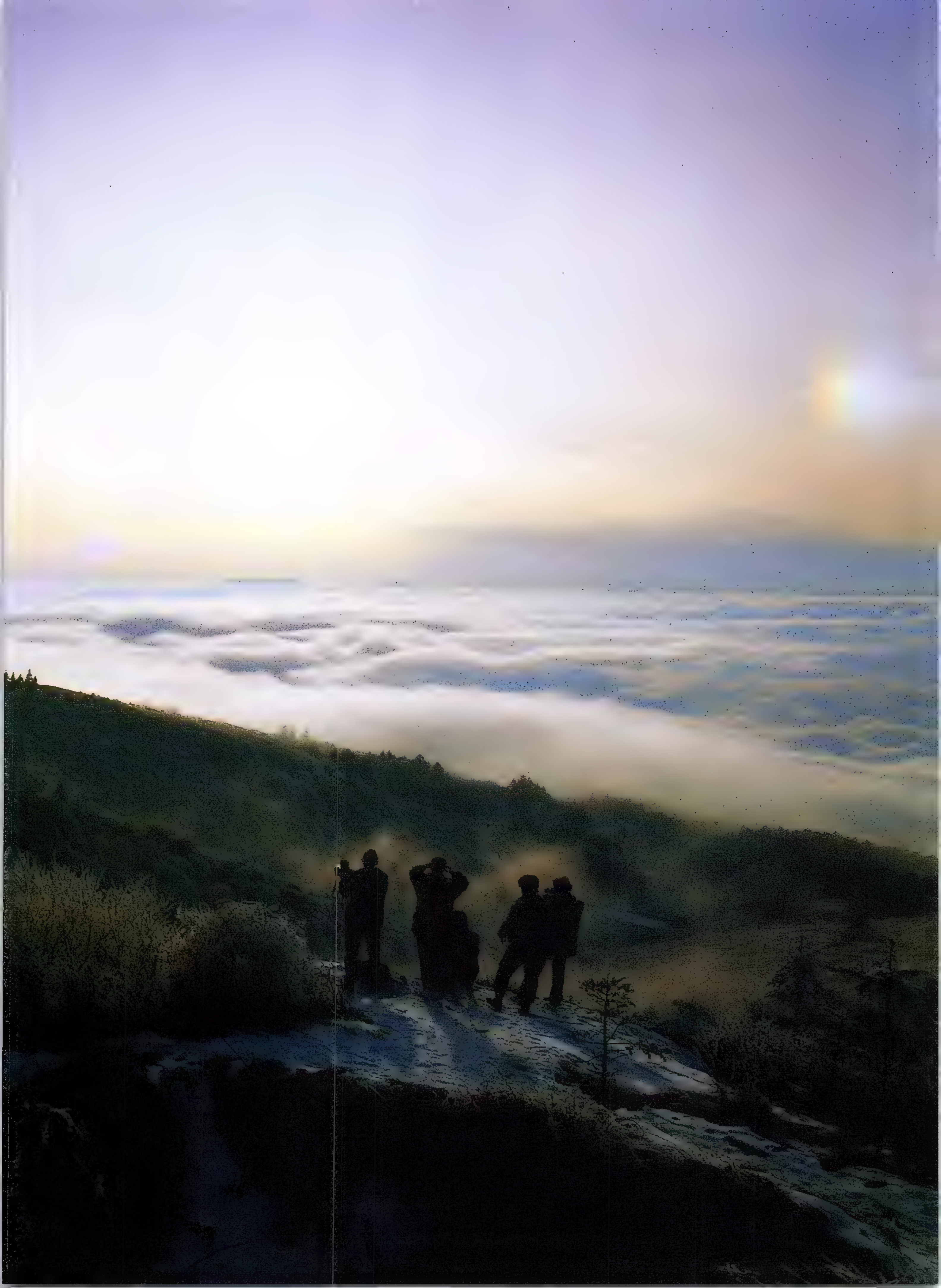


1. **This plaque is a gift from an emperor bestowing an imperial title on the wife of Confucius. (by Liu Zhenqing)**
2. **An ancient painting depicting Confucius giving a lecture to his disciples (by Liu Zhenqing)**
3. **The sitting room of the Confucius Mansion was where the Sacred Lords of different generations received friends and family members. The central scroll is inscribed with the word meaning longevity by the hand of the Empress Dowager. (by Liu Zhenqing)**
4. **Covering an area of 200 hectares, the 2,400-year-old Confucian Cemetery is the site of more than 100,000 tombs, including Confucius and the Kong family members. (by Shan Xiaogang)**
5. **Every generation of a Sacred Lord, a title inherited from Confucius, had a portrait in the Confucius Mansion. (by Liu Zhenqing)**

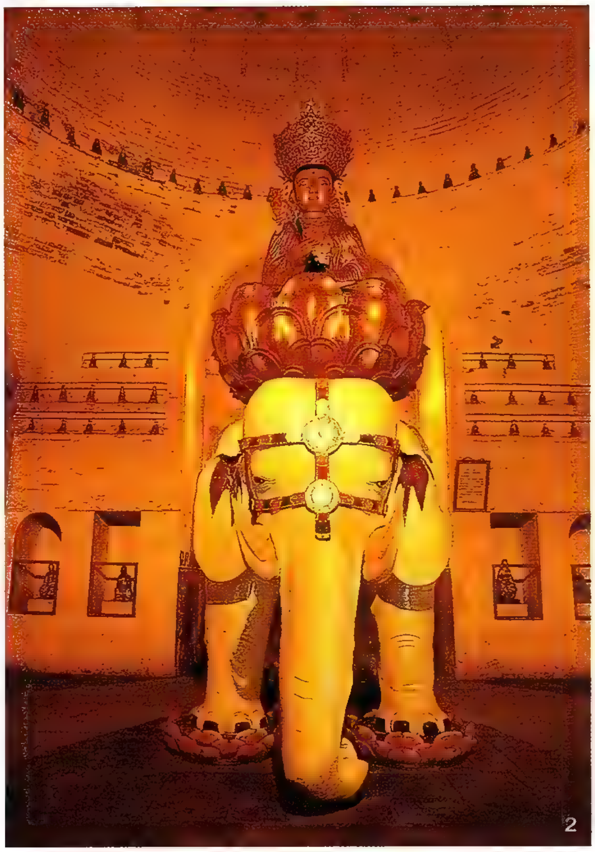
MOUNT EMEI AND LESHAN GIANT BUDDHA

— Divine Light and Largest Buddha Sculpture





MOUNT EMEI AND LESHAN GIANT BUDDHA



Previous page: Mount Emei, soaring to a height of 3,000 metres, is often enveloped in a sea of clouds. (by Lin Meng)

1. **The Huazang Temple on the Golden Summit, the tallest temple of Mount Emei (by Shi Baoxiu)**
2. **The bronze statue of Samantabhadra in the Wannian Temple of Mount Emei (by Lin Meng)**
3. **Perpendicular cliffs on Mount Emei (by Yuan Rongxun)**
4. **The monumental Leshan Buddha is a study of peace and calmness as he gazes at the confluence of three rivers. (by Yuan Rongxun)**

Mount Emei and the Leshan Mountain stand in south-central Sichuan Province at the edge of the Sichuan Basin. Mount Emei rises steeply from the ground to form a spectacular sight, where, as the saying goes, "You can experience four seasons in one day on one mountain." The topography is a wooded turmoil of more than 100 square kilometres with various scenes and sights. The Narrow Strip of Sky is conjured up by two peaks rising at close range. The Jiulao (Nine-Immortal) Cave is known for its unfathomable mystery. The Leidong Terrace, where clouds, fog and rain interact, has an ever-changing face. The Jinding (Golden Summit) Peak provides a kaleidoscopic view of the world around it. In the morning, it is a vantage point for observing the sunrise over a sea of clouds; in the afternoon, a seven-hued halo appears in the mist below the Sheshen Cliff to form what is known as the Buddha's halo; in this divine light the observer can see his own silhouette.

Mount Emei abounds in wildlife. There are 3,200 kinds of higher plants, including trees extolled as "living fossils" — dove tree (*Davidia involucrata*), spinulose tree fern (*Cyathea spinulosa*) and *Emei ebies*. It is a natural habitat for 2,300 kinds of wild animals, including giant pandas and black storks. Monkeys, which are found everywhere in the mountain, are regarded as a major tourist resource of Mount Emei.

Mount Emei is the domain of Samantabhadra, the Bodhisattva of Universal Benevolence, and is one of China's four major Buddhist mountain sanctuaries along with Mount Wutai of Shanxi, Mount Jiuhua of Anhui and Mount Putuo of Zhejiang. Legends say that Buddhism found its way to Mount Emei in the first century.

More than 30 temples remain on the mountain. One of these, the famous Baoguo Temple, which is enshrined with seven statues of the Buddha, is the gateway to Mount Emei and a major place for religious ceremonies. The tranquil Fuhu Temple is the largest nunnery of Mount Emei. The Huazang Temple, rebuilt in 1989, on the Golden Summit is at the highest altitude. Mount Emei is a repository of more than 7,000 cultural artefacts, including 700 or so national treasures. Many famous poets, painters and calligraphers have bequeathed Mount Emei with a wealth of poetry, prose, paintings and calligraphy work.

Leshan, the other part of this world cultural heritage, earns its reputation from the colossal stone sculpture of the Buddha at the confluence of the Dadu, Qingyi and Minjiang rivers east of the city of Leshan. It took 90 years for this statue to be completed, beginning from 713 during the Tang Dynasty.

Immense proportions and impeccable craftsmanship are two salient features of the Giant Buddha of Leshan. At a height of 71 metres, it is definitely one of a kind among all ancient Chinese cliff carvings, and by its sheer size it is indisputably the largest Buddhist sculpture in the world. "The mountain is a Buddha, while the Buddha is the mountain itself", as the saying goes. Humans are dwarfed in front of the Buddha. Each ear is as tall as four men and six cars could be parked abreast along the back of one foot. Yet, its proportions conform to the human body.

The Buddha leans against the Lingyun Mountain and gazes at the river with calmness and self-confidence in his eyes. Despite the passage of 1,200 years, the skilful chisel work is still visible. A drainage system has been built into the statue to ward off the damaging effect of runoffs. Many Buddhist figurines are carved by the zigzag plank path behind him, and on the cliff surfaces around him.

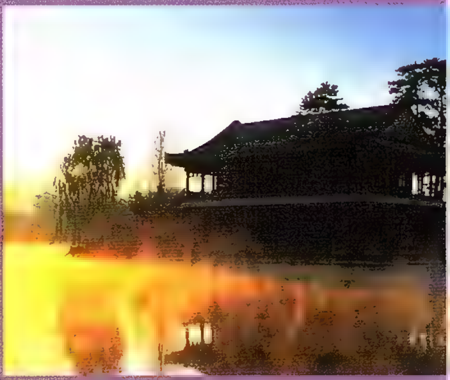
Translated by Ling Yuan

3

4

Classic Beauty of Gardens

Eastern Cultural Concepts and Aesthetic Philosophy



The Mountain Resor and Eight Oute Temples in Chengde

Inscribed on the UNESC World Heritage List at the 18t Session of the Committee in 1994

A summer palace of the Qing Dynast in Chengde, Hebei Province, the Mountai Resort was constructed between 170 and 1792. This magnificent architectura group includes government offices ceremonial halls, royal gardens an temples built in varied traditions. Thes structures form a harmonious whole wit the neighbouring lakes, ponds, grasslan and forests.

Ancient Chinese gardens are world-renowned artistic gems with their unique traditions and attractions. To combine natural hills, rocks, woods and springs with towers, pavilions and man-made terraces, and make use of poems, paintings and literary creations are the essence of traditional gardens in China.

There are two major categories of gardens: royal and private. Royal gardens are large with classy and noble luxuries. Private gardens, restricted by space, tend to reflect exquisiteness and elegance in a literary style.

Classic Gardens in Suzhou

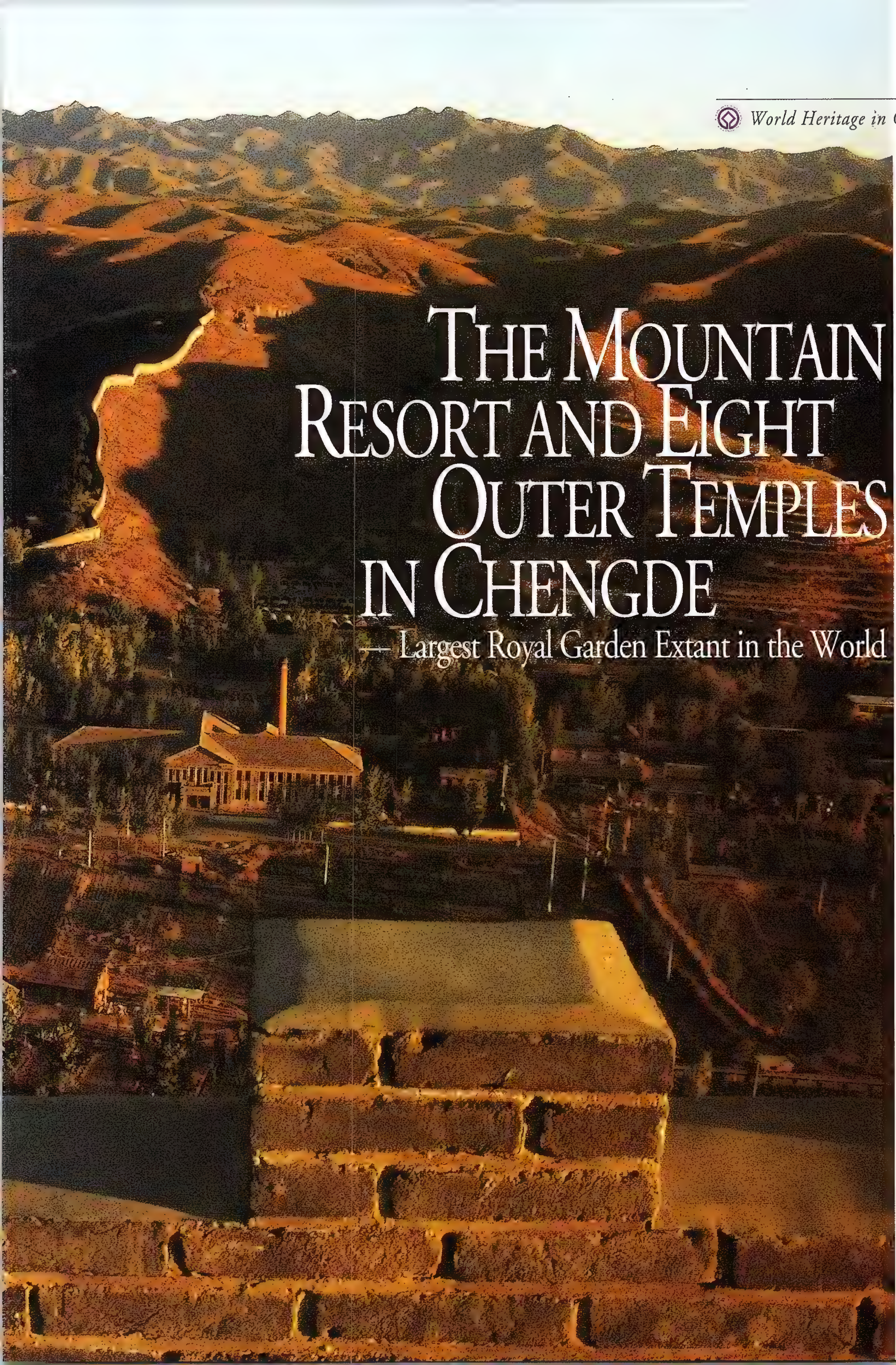
Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 21st Session of the Committee in 1997

Ancient Chinese gardens aimed at recreating natural landscapes with miniature hills and water areas. The four traditional gardens in the ancient city of Suzhou are renowned as outstanding examples of classic gardens. Built during the 16th and 18th centuries, these exquisitely designed gardens fully reflect the Chinese aesthetic taste and values of natural scenery.

The Summer Palace

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 22nd Session of the Committee in 1998

The Summer Palace in Beijing is an outstanding example of the artistic creation of Chinese gardens resulting from a superb merging of the man-made and natural scenic sites. This huge park reflects the philosophy and practice of garden design in China, a quality which once exerted an important impact on the garden culture in the East. As a royal garden, it can be regarded as a symbol of one of the major civilisations of the world.



THE MOUNTAIN RESORT AND EIGHT OUTER TEMPLES IN CHENGDE

— Largest Royal Garden Extant in the World

THE MOUNTAIN RESORT AND EIGHT OUTER TEMPLES IN CHENGDE

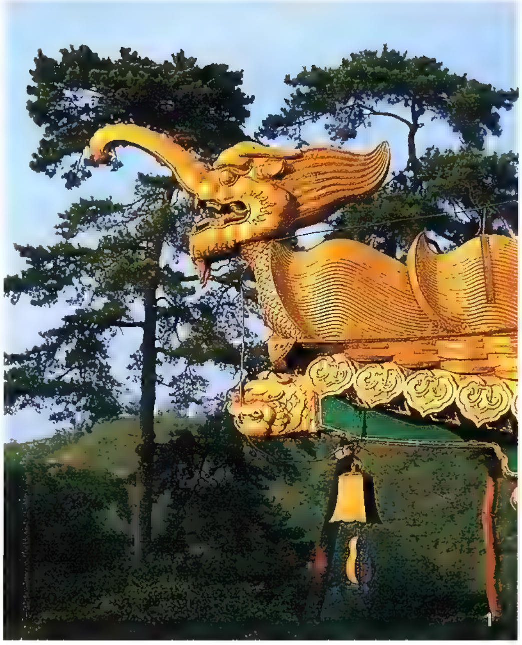
Bishushanzhuang — the Mountain Resort to Escape the Heat — in Chengde, Hebei Province, was where the Qing emperors enjoyed the cool weather in the summer and at the same time carried out their official duties. It remains the largest royal garden extant in the world today.

Those who are familiar with gardens in southern China can hardly imagine the enormous size of the Mountain Resort. Its actual size is around 564 hectares and its surrounding walls rise and fall with the mountains for 10 kilometres. It is twice the size of the Summer Palace and is similar to the Yuanmingyuan Garden in Beijing, which was destroyed by the Anglo-French forces in 1860.

The Mountain Resort consists of a palace and a park area. The palace area embraces four groups of structures: Zhenggong (Main Palace), Songhezhai (Pine and Crane Chamber), Donggong (East Palace) and Wanhesongfeng (Palace of Pine Valley Wind). This area served as the administrative and residential quarters of the emperors. The park area consists of the plains, lakes and hills. The western plains are grassland while the eastern part is wooded. The lake zone resembles southern China scenery, featuring ponds and canals. The hill zone rises and falls dramatically, impressive in its grandeur and mighty strength.

In the Mountain Resort, apart from the 36 views with four-character inscriptions by Emperor Kangxi and another 36 views with three-character inscriptions by his grandson, Emperor Qianlong, there are dozens of other interesting sites, including halls, pavilions, towers, terraces, verandas, waterside pavilions, monasteries and nunneries. These structures, together with the massive temples in the north and east, are harmoniously set in the surrounding natural scenery.

After putting down the rebellion waged by Wu Sangui in the south, the Qing court moved its political and military focus to the north. To raise the combativeness of the Eight Banner armies, Emperor Kangxi established the Mulan Hunting Ground for military drills in 1681. The emperor



Previous page:
A view of the Eight Outer Temples from the Mountain Resort wall. This palace built for the Qing emperors is the largest royal garden extant in the world today. (by He Jianhao)

1. **The strange animal on the roof of a hall at the Temple of Sumeru Happiness and Longevity demonstrates the architectural style of Tibetan Buddhism. (by Xiaogang)**
2. **The Jinshan (Golden Hill) Island resembles the Jinshan Temple in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu. (by Yu Yuntian)**
3. **Snow on the Southern Hill, one of the 36 views with inscriptions by Emperor Kangxi, in autumn (by Li Zeng)**
4. **The Temple of Sumeru Happiness and Longevity was built to imitate the Tashilhunpo Temple in Xigazê, Tibet. (by Xiaogang)**
5. **The Mid-Water Pavilion (Shuixinxie) with inscription "Shui Xin Xie" by Emperor Kangxi (by Xiaogang)**

would go hunting at Mulan every autumn, with 20,000 to 30,000 people accompanying him, including court officials, government ministers, the Eight Banner troops and servants. Nobles from Mongolia also came and joined in the hunting. Thus, starting from 1702, as many as eight palaces, including the Chengde Mountain Resort, were built on the route between the capital Beijing and Mulan Hunting Ground.

In the summer of 1702, Emperor Kangxi brought his mother, princes and court ministers to Chengde, then called Rehe, to study the terrain and begin the construction by digging lakes and building a dike. By 1713, with the completion of the palace walls, the Mountain Resort had taken shape. After Kangxi's death, his fourth son, Emperor Yongzheng, devoted almost all of his attention and energy to court struggles to consolidate his rule. As a result, he never went on any hunting trips outside the capital. When Yongzheng's fourth son took the throne as Emperor Qianlong, he immediately restored the hunting tradition, once every two years at first and later annually. Therefore, the Mountain Resort's importance became a priority and expansion quickly picked up pace. Sites for 36 views were added to the previous 36 of Emperor Kangxi. In addition, 12 temples were built outside the palace walls. Nine of these temples belonged to the Yellow Sect of Buddhism, obviously with the aim of pleasing the leaders of the Mongolian, Tibetan and Han ethnic groups. In the 57th year of Qianlong's reign, the Hall of Inheriting Virtue was completed as part of the Pine and Crane Chamber, marking the end of 90 years of construction.

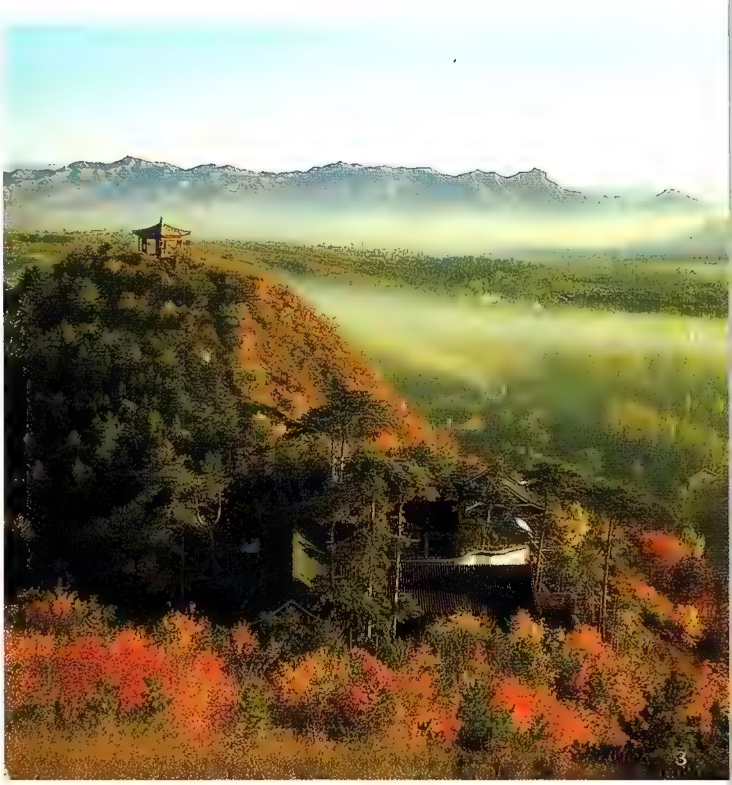
The Chengde Mountain Resort, embraced by mountains, has an essence different from both the man-made private gardens in Suzhou and the artificially created hills and waters within the royal gardens of Beijing. This place was constructed according to the contours of the land and made use of, and complemented, the natural scenery of mountains, rivers, forests and spring waters.

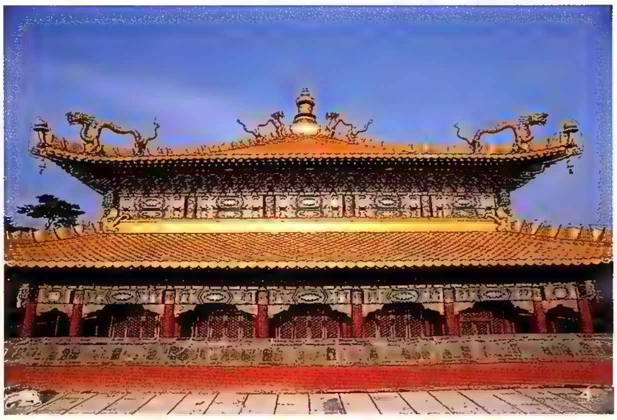
The garden section for the royal family's leisure is quite different from the administrative and residential areas. While the idea of following nature was strong, there were also efforts to transform nature, such as building a pavilion on a hilltop to change the contours; storing spring waters to make a reservoir and create a waterfall; digging lakes and canals; planting trees, building roads and making rockeries in gardens. The result is what we see today — a perfection of gardening culture which allows nature to retain its leading position.

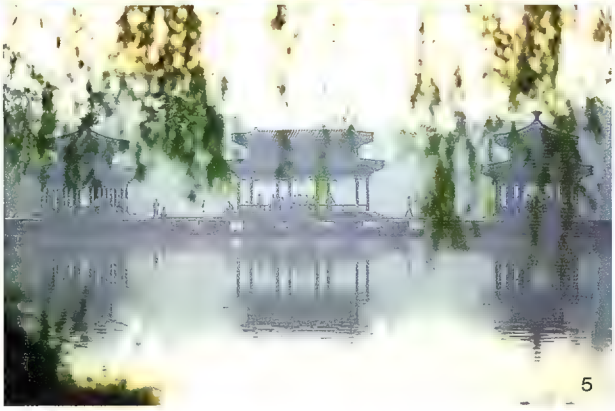
Emperors Kangxi and Qianlong each made six trips to the south of the country and had chances to see the courtyard gardens in Suzhou, Hangzhou and the vicinity. This led to the construction of similar structures in the Mountain Resort: the Golden Hill Island resembling the Golden Hill Temple in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu; the Surging Wave Islet resembling the Surging Wave Pavilion in Suzhou; and the Wenjinge (Literary Ford Pavilion) for the Tianyige in Ningbo, Zhejiang. Even some of their names were appropriated. These imitation gardens were, however, so harmoniously arranged in the giant imperial garden that you see no trace of conflict — they are truly successful recreations.

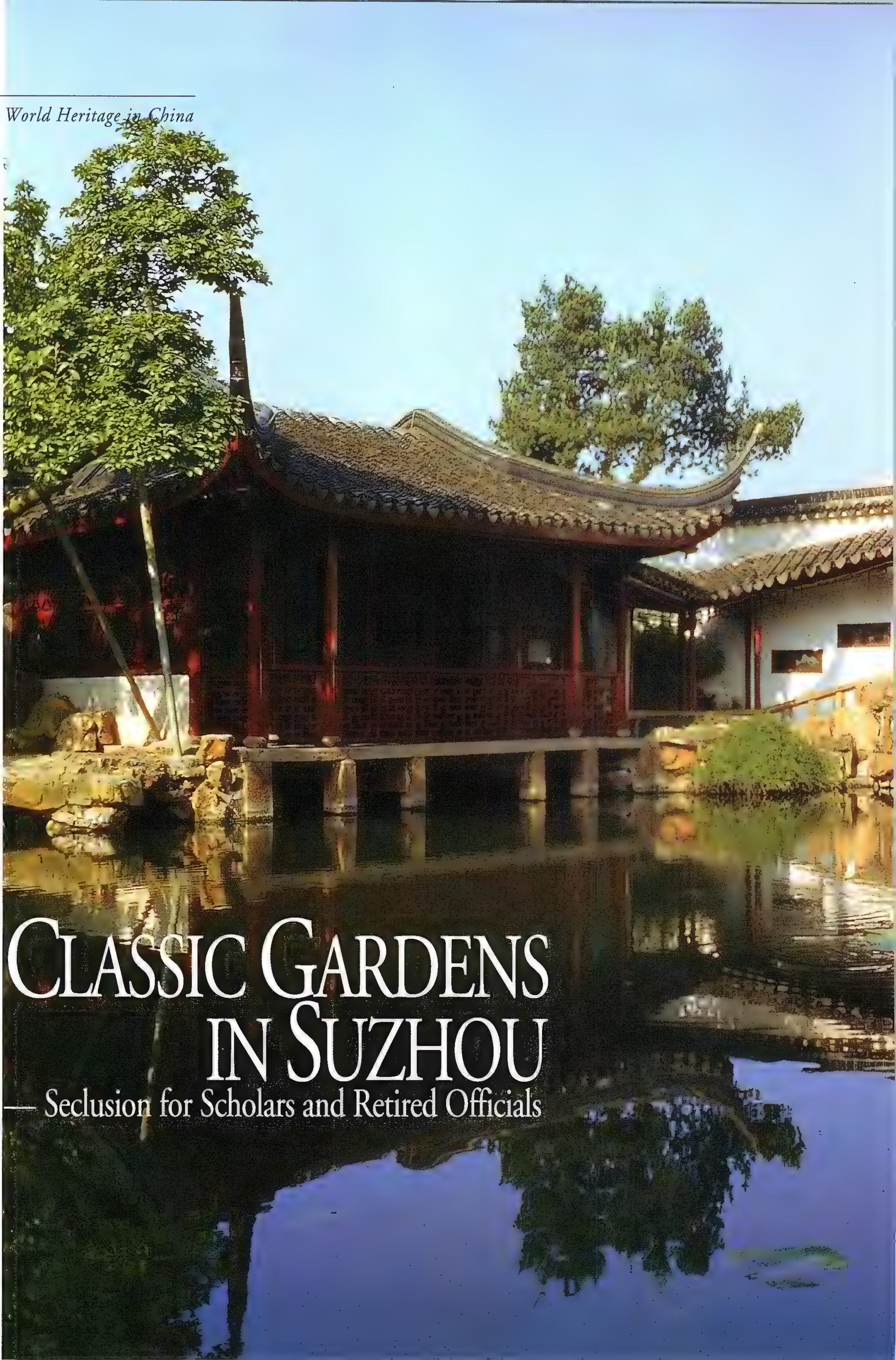
The Eight Outer Temples, located outside the Mountain Resort walls, are reflections of the Han, Mongolian and Tibetan ethnic architectural traditions. For example, the Putuozongsheng Temple (Temple of Potaraka Doctrine) resembles the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet; the Temple of Sumeru Happiness and Longevity is in the style of Tashilhunpo in Xigazê, Tibet; and the Anyuan Temple (Temple of Remote Peace) bears an obvious resemblance to the Kurzha Temple in Ili, Xinjiang.

There are also many natural scenic wonders, such as Club Hill, Heavenly Bridge Hill, Twin Pagoda Hill and Frog Rock, which create a wonderfully attractive backdrop around the Mountain Resort.


3

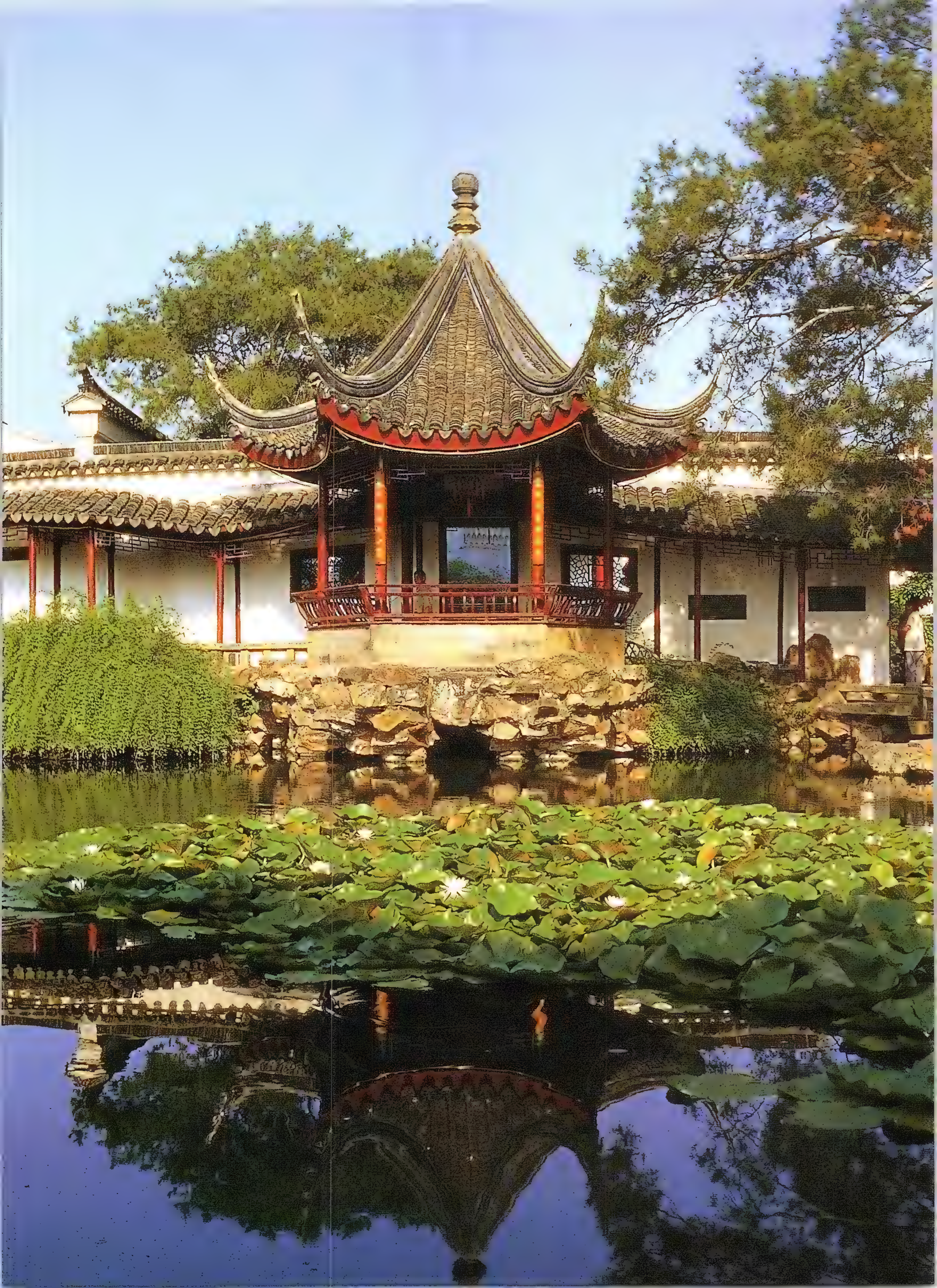

4


5



CLASSIC GARDENS IN SUZHOU

— Seclusion for Scholars and Retired Officials



Previous page:
Though the smallest of all gardens in Suzhou, the Fisherman's Garden has the strongest literary atmosphere. (by Zhou Rende)

1. **The rocks in the Lion Grove Garden are so cleverly arranged that Emperor Qianlong was inspired to inscribe "really interesting" after a visit. (by Zhou Rende)**
2. **Leaning on the railing at Lion Grove Garden, one is offered a view as beautiful as a painting. (by Guanghui)**
3. **In Humble Administrator's Garden, exquisitely designed corridor windows and courtyard plants complement each other in beauty and liveliness. (by Guanghui)**
4. **Surging Wave Pavilion Garden shrouded in morning mist (by Zhou Rende)**
5. **Decorative window in the Lion Grove Garden (by Guanghui)**
6. **Elegant and exquisite furniture in the Flower Hall of the Lingering Garden (by Zhou Rende)**

CLASSIC GARDENS IN SUZHOU

From the Song through to the Qing Dynasty, private gardens owned by scholars and officials developed and flourished throughout the country. The best of these gardens are found in Suzhou, Jiangsu, and these include the famous Zhuozhengyuan (Humble Administrator's Garden), Canglangting (Surging Wave Pavilion), Shizilin (Lion Grove), Liuyuan (Lingering Garden) and Wangshiyuan (Fisherman's Garden).

This ancient city has also produced a large number of successful and outstanding garden architects such as Ji Cheng and Zhang Nanhuan. Originally men of letters and good painters, these people not only personally designed their gardens but actually worked on them. Thus, they promoted the maturity of private garden building.

In ancient China, officials who retired or fell out of favour tended to move away from political centres. They usually built highly secluded and exquisite garden homes. This let them maintain their connections with the literary circles and live a comfortable life. With gardens of chrysanthemum, bamboo, orchid and plum (plants of clean and noble character), they mixed with friends and stimulated creativity in poem, calligraphy and painting.

Making clever use of the pavilions, terraces, towers, waterside pavilions, verandas, corridors, bridges, screens and rockeries, ponds and plants, Suzhou garden builders divided the limited space available into well-arranged and balanced units of different levels, each with its own unique views. Mountains and tall distant buildings, and even the sky and clouds became part of the background. Beautiful scenes often unfold through windows and doors like painted scrolls.

By far, the Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou is considered as the most classical work for three main factors: it is the largest, occupying five hectares; its layout offers an impression of openness; and it reflects a rich and refined artistic taste. It was built in 1509, in the mid-Ming Dynasty, by Wang Xianchen. After falling out of favour because of his outspoken criticism of the emperor, Wang resigned from his official post as an imperial historian and returned to his hometown. He borrowed the name of the garden from the writings of Pan Yue, a literary person of the Jin Dynasty (265-420). The characters *zhuo zheng* indicated his preference for a simple, farmer's life, or, in other words, he defined himself as "a humble person not interested in officialdom".

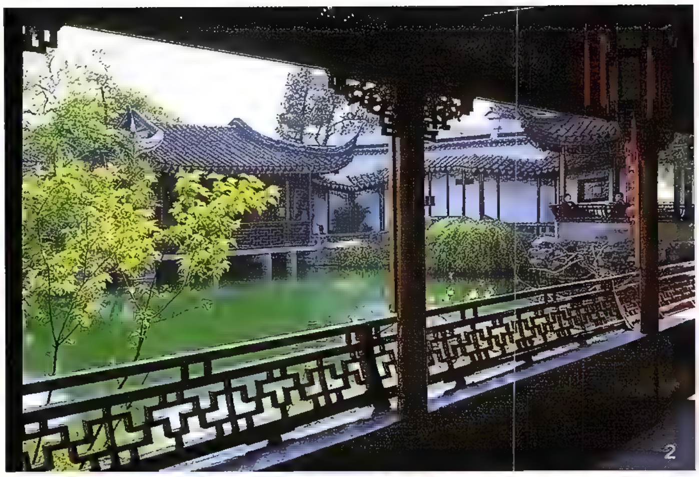
The Surging Wave Pavilion Garden, built by Su Shunqin, a poet of the early Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), is one of the oldest gardens in Suzhou. The one-hectare garden broke from the traditional surrounding high walls and combined both inside and outside scenery into one view. It features a rockery arrangement in a tranquil plain style. The Surging Wave Pavilion stands tall on an earthen mound in the garden.

The Lion Grove Garden was built in early Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), also on one hectare. Its giant rockeries are pierced with an intricate labyrinth of caves that often mystify visitors. After a walk that impressed him, Qing emperor Qianlong delightfully wrote the inscription: "really interesting".

The Lingering Garden was built around 1525 as the private garden of eunuch Xu Shitai. Originally called East Garden, it took its present name during the Qing Dynasty. The three-hectare garden is known for its compactness and the clever and unique arrangement of space and structures.

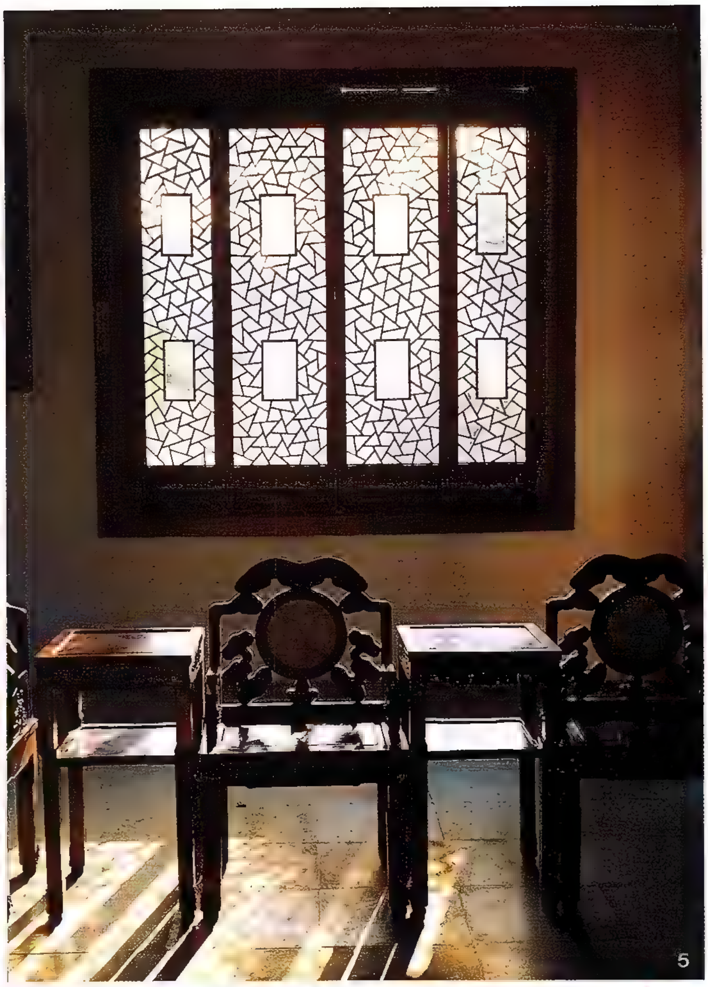
1

The Fisherman's Garden, standing on only half a hectare of land, is the smallest garden in Suzhou. Originally called the Sea of Seclusion, it was built in the Southern Song period (1127-1279) as the residence of a retired court minister. During the early Qing Dynasty, it changed hands and was renamed. Continuous renovations by owners with cultivated cultural taste give the garden a highly elegant, tranquil, exquisite and scholarly air.


2

3

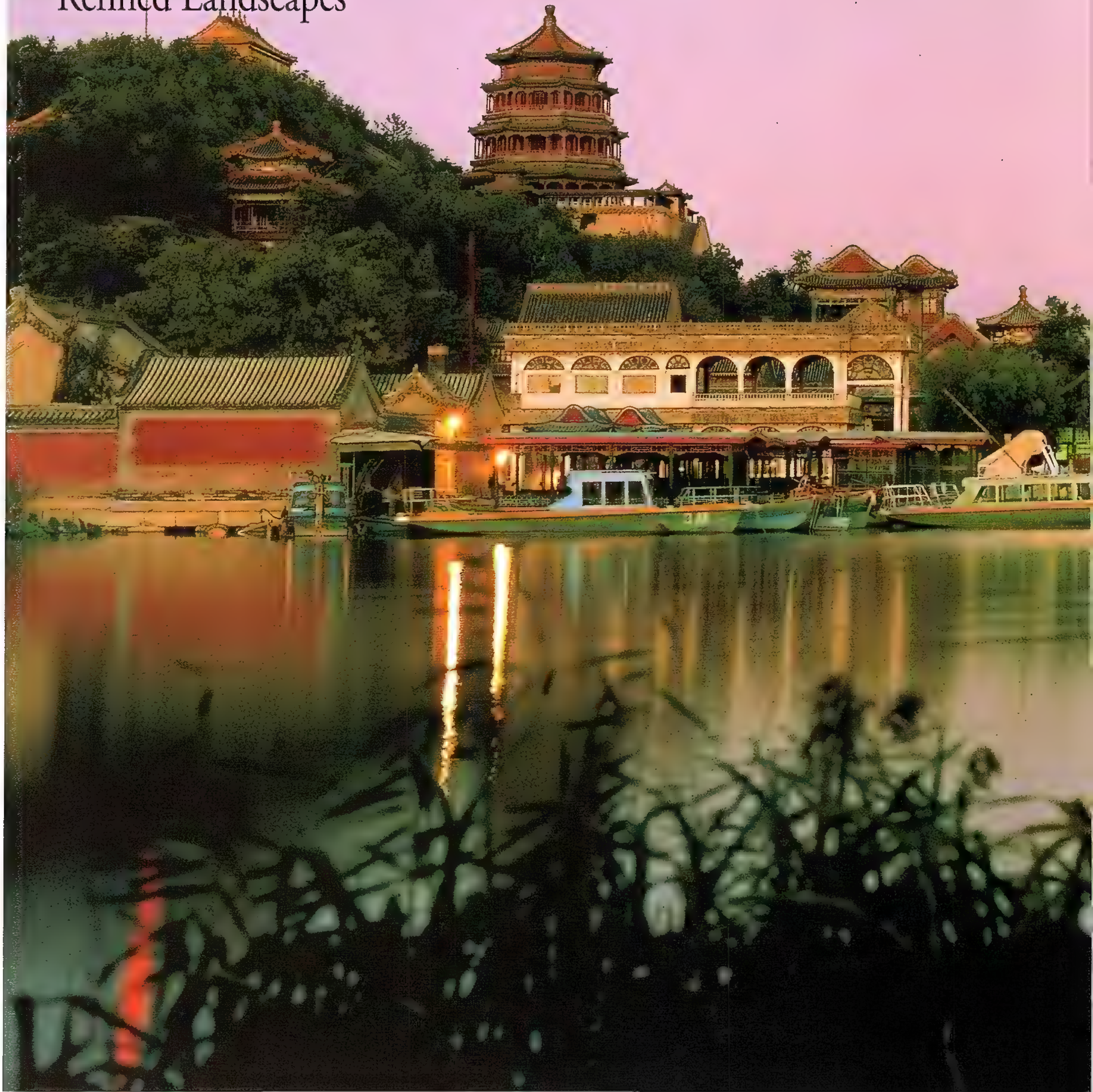
4


5

6

THE SUMMER PALACE

— an Imperial Garden of Refined Landscapes



THE SUMMER PALACE

Located some 20 kilometres northwest of the city centre of Beijing, Yiheyuan (Summer Palace) is the city's largest and most complete ancient garden still intact. Construction of this royal garden began in the 11th century, and 800 years later when the Qing Dynasty saw its doom, the garden area had expanded to over 1,000 hectares. The landscapes of the garden are composed by the Wanshou (Longevity) Hill and Kunming Lake. The water embraces the hill and together they create myriad views of great attraction in four major scenic zones.

The East Palace Gate Zone comprises the administrative offices and main living quarters of the Qing rulers, meeting rooms, the Grand Theatre and courtyard gardens. Renshoudian (Hall of Benevolence and Longevity), formerly known as Hall of Diligent Administration, was where the emperor met his ministers and foreign envoys. Behind the hall are three large courtyards with quadrangle houses inter-connected by winding corridors. Leshoutang (Hall of Joyful Longevity), the residence of the Empress Dowager, faces the Kunming Lake and is screened by the Longevity Hill. To its east is the Theatre in the Deheyuan (Garden of Moral Harmony) and to the west is the Long Corridor. Yulantang (Magnolia Hall) was Emperor Guangxu's residence and also where he was put under house arrest by Empress Dowager Cixi after the failure of his Hundred-Day Reforms. Today, the high walls that cut the emperor off from the outside world can still be seen.

The section in front of the Longevity Hill boasts the most buildings and looks the most magnificent and luxurious. The entire area is built along two straight lines. The one running east to west is the famous Long Corridor. With a total of 273 bays extending 728 metres long from east to west, it is the longest corridor in the world. It's ceilings and beams each displays a beautiful coloured painting. In all there are over 4,000 paintings, which tell traditional stories or feature flowers, birds and fish. On the north-south axis which runs through the very centre of the Long Corridor, are the garden's most imposing buildings. The Cloud-Dispelling Hall is actually a group of magnificent palace-style buildings where Empress Dowager celebrated her birthdays. The miniature landscapes and cultural relics on display there are mostly gifts presented to her by court officials for her 70th birthday.

The Foxiangge (Tower of Buddhist Incense) is the centre and the tallest structure in the palace. In its east is the Zhuanluncang (Cakravarti Tower, or Buddhist Library) and a 9.88-metre-tall stele. To the west is the Wufangge (Pentagonal Pavilion) and the Baoyunge (Precious Cloud Pavilion). The latter, cast in bronze, rests on a carved white marble stand. Though weighing 200 tons, this rare world treasure resembles a wood structure. In the centre on top of Longevity Hill is a glazed-tile tower called Zhihuihai (Sea of Wisdom) which provides a panoramic park view.

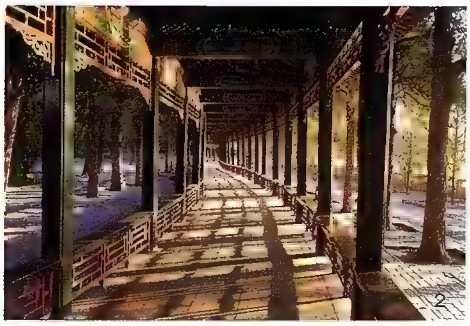
Behind the Longevity Hill, the Lake Scenic Zone features sturdy woods, twisting mountain paths and a tranquil atmosphere which form a sharp contrast with the pronounced elegance in front. The Suzhou Street on the Rear Lake, with its distinctive southern China architectural style, presents a conspicuous contrast to the Tibetan buildings on the hill.

At the northeastern corner is the Tiaoyuanzhai (Distant View Tower) and Xiequyuan (Garden of Harmonious Interests), commonly known as the "garden within a garden". Tiaoyuanzhai's advantageous position offers a view of the street outside the palace, frow where the Empress Dowager Cixi would annually watch people passing by on their way to a temple fair. Xiequyuan, built during the reign of Emperor Qianlong, imitates the Pleasure Garden in Wuxi, Jiangsu.

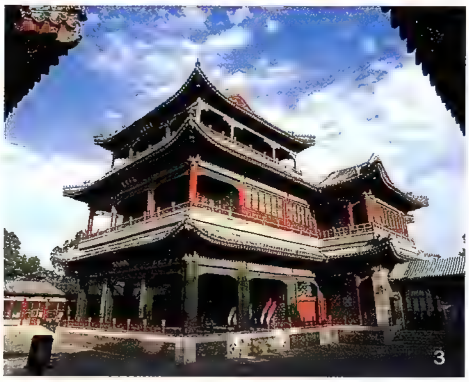
Waters take up three-fourths of the space in the Summer Palace. The Kunming Lake in front of the palace, in particular, offers a view of rippling waters. On the lake's West Dike are six arched bridges of different architectural styles. The three islets in the lake support buildings of varied traditions. The 150-metre-long and eight-metre-wide Seventeen-Arch Bridge is the largest of all bridges in the Summer Palace and is known for its special architectural beauty.

Translated by F. Huang

1



2



3

Previous page:
The Tower of Buddhist Incense, built on a 20-metre-high terrace, offers a panoramic view of the Kunming Lake and the surrounding scenery of the Summer Palace. (by Yu Yuntian)

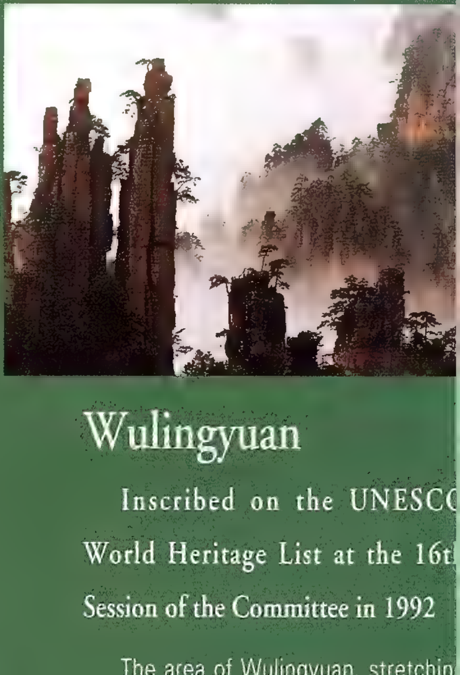
1. **The Marble Boat, docked at the end of the Long Corridor, was first built in 1755 with a traditional Chinese-style tower which was burned by the Anglo-French Armies in 1860. The present Western-style tower was built in 1893. (by Yu Yuntian)**
2. **The Long Corridor was first built in 1750 and burned down by the Anglo-French Armies in 1860. The present one was rebuilt near the end of the 19th century. (by Yao Tianxin)**
3. **The Grand Theatre in the Garden of Moral Harmony has three levels. Being the largest at the time, it was known as one of the three great theatres along with the Forbidden City's Changyin Pavilion and the Chengde Mountain Resort's Qingyin Pavilion. (by Yao Tianxin)**
4. **The Seventeen-arch Bridge spanning to the South Lake Island is the largest of all bridges in the Summer Palace. Four stone animals guard both ends of the bridge. (by Yao Tianxin)**
5. **Suzhou Street, on the Rear Lake, shows typical southern-China scenery. (by Yao Tianxin)**

4

5

Wonders of Nature

Landscapes with Character



Wulingyuan

Inscribed on the UNESC World Heritage List at the 16t Session of the Committee in 1992

The area of Wulingyuan, stretchin over 26,000 hectares in Hunan Province, i distinguished by more than 3,000 narro quartzite pillars and peaks. The strikin beauty of the landscape in Zhangjiajie Suoxi Gully and Taizi Mountain is reveale in their many ravines, pools and waterfalls caves and natural bridges.

Three of the 21 world heritages existing in China belong to the nature category: Jiuzhaigou, Huanglong, and Wulingyuan.

Exceptional ecological and geographical features and strong natural aesthetic value enable these three to stand out among China's numerous places of natural beauty to become world natural heritages. To be designated as world natural heritages is both an honour and a warning — only by maintaining their natural primitiveness can their value as superb works of nature be preserved forever.

Huanglong

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 16th Session of the Committee in 1992

The Huanglong Valley in northwestern Sichuan Province consists of snow-capped peaks and the world's easternmost glacier. It supports diverse forest ecosystems amongst its spectacular karst formations, waterfalls and hot springs. One of its highlights is the exotic array of vibrant colours in its multiple groups of highland ponds.

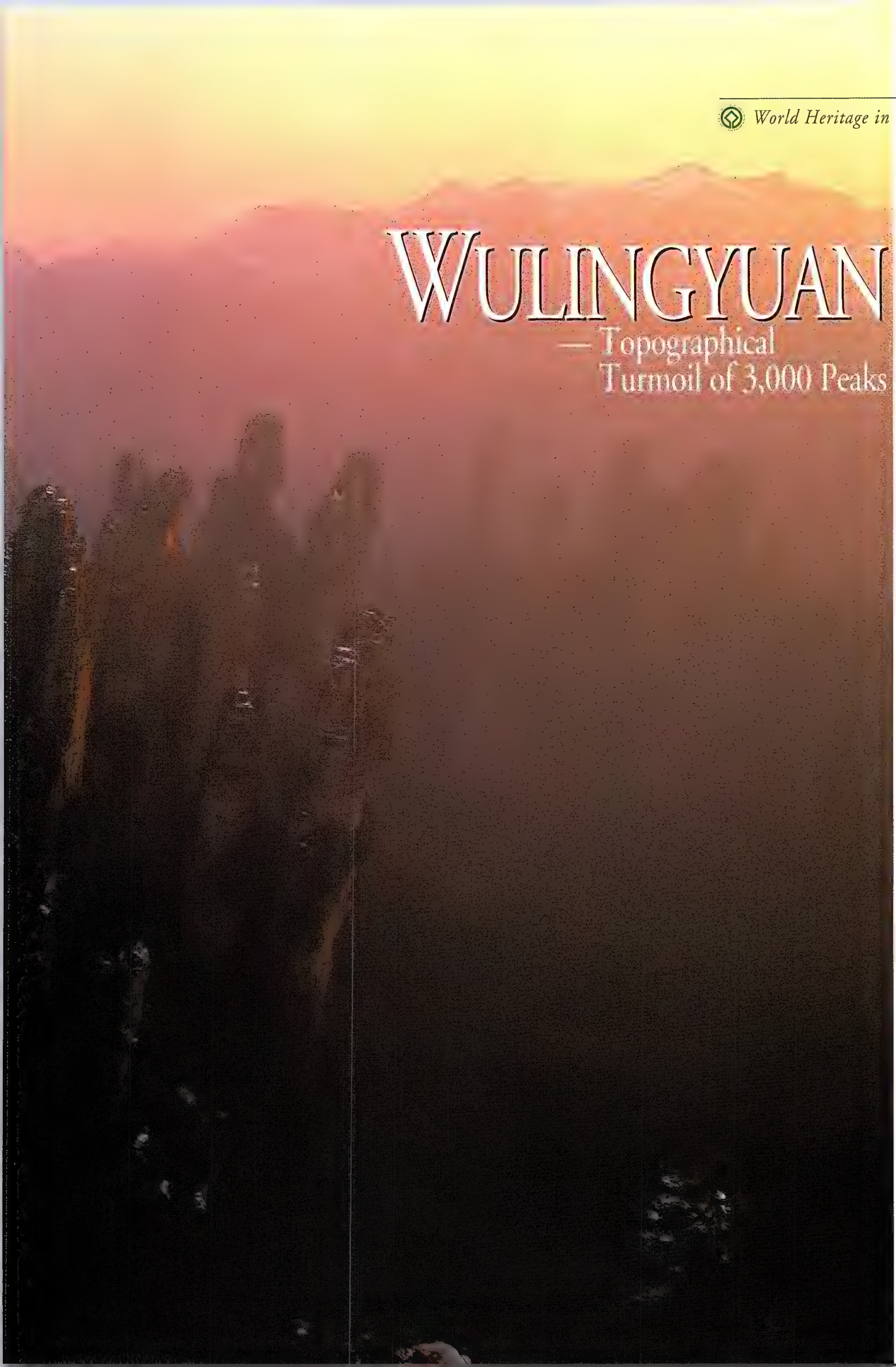
Jiuzhaigou

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 16th Session of the Committee in 1992

The jagged Jiuzhaigou Valley, in northern Sichuan Province, reaches a height of 4,800 metres and comprises a series of diverse forest ecosystems. Its beauty lies in its strings of lakes, superb karst landforms and spectacular waterfalls. The valley is home to 140 species of birds and many endangered rare plants and animals, including the giant panda.

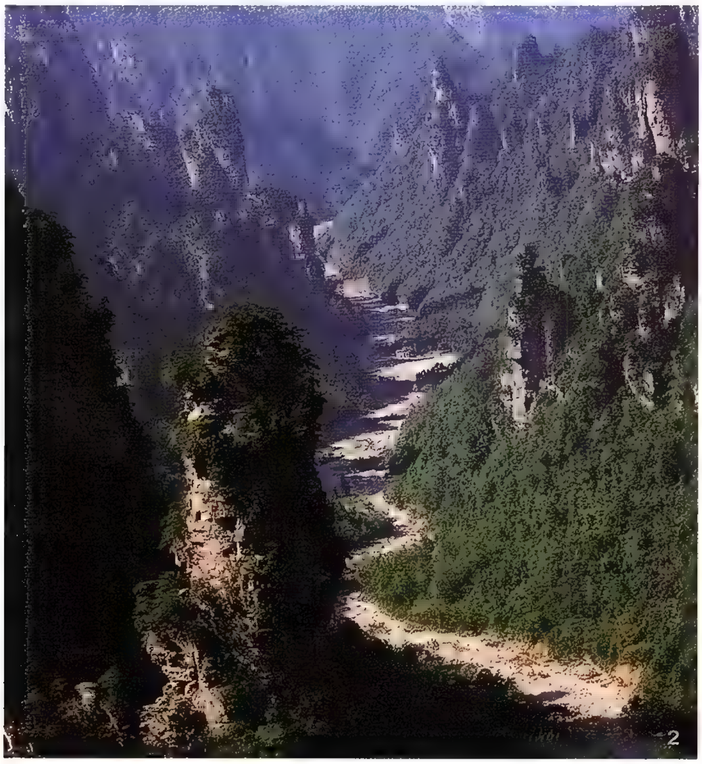
WULINGYUAN

— Topographical Turmoil of 3,000 Peaks



Previous page:
The jungle of 3,000 peaks looks all the more magnificent after a snowfall. (by Yu Yuntian)

1. Farmland is found high up the mountain in Wulingyuan. (by Yu Yuntian)
2. A footpath winds its way in the ravine along the famed Shili Picture Gallery. (by Lin Jinghua)
3. Tianzi Mountain is a turmoil of peaks, and for this reason it is known as "King of Peak Forests". (by Yuan Xuejun)
4. As a legacy of the glacial epoch, the peaks of Wulingyuan took shape after long years of weathering. (by Lin Jinghua)



WULINGYUAN

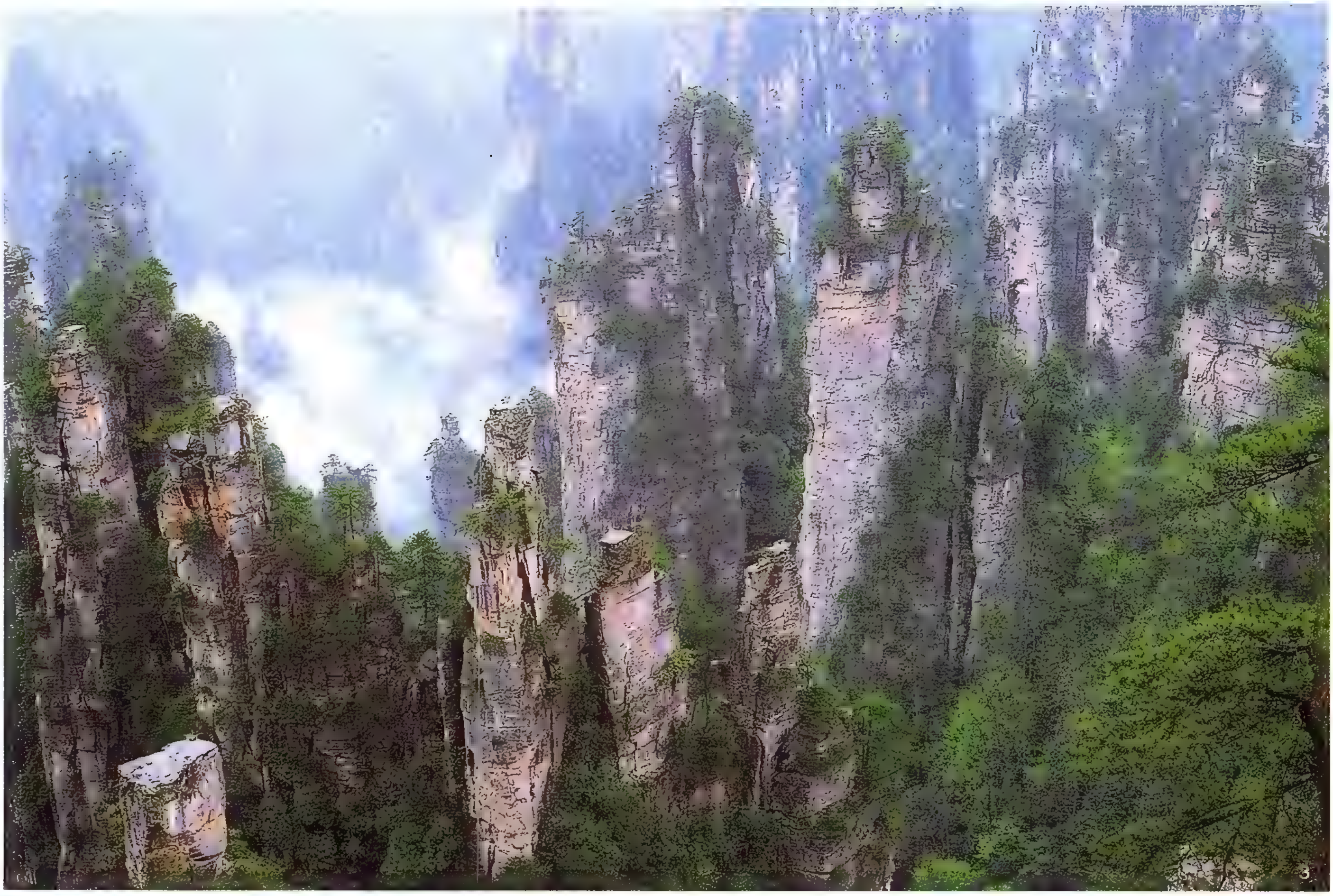
Wulingyuan is a 26,400-hectare scenic resort consisting of the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, Suoxi Gully and Tianzi Mountain in Hunan Province. A unique natural wonder, the area is known for its jumble of 3,000 quartzite pillars and peaks in every conceivable shape. There are also numerous monoliths of strange imagery, quiet valleys, clear lakes and limestone caves.

As the first national forest park in China, Zhangjiajie was discovered during the 1970s. Rocks are a salient feature of the area, whose land bristles with mountain ranges. Mountain springs and subterranean rivers converge to form streams such as Pipa, Huaxi and Jinbian.

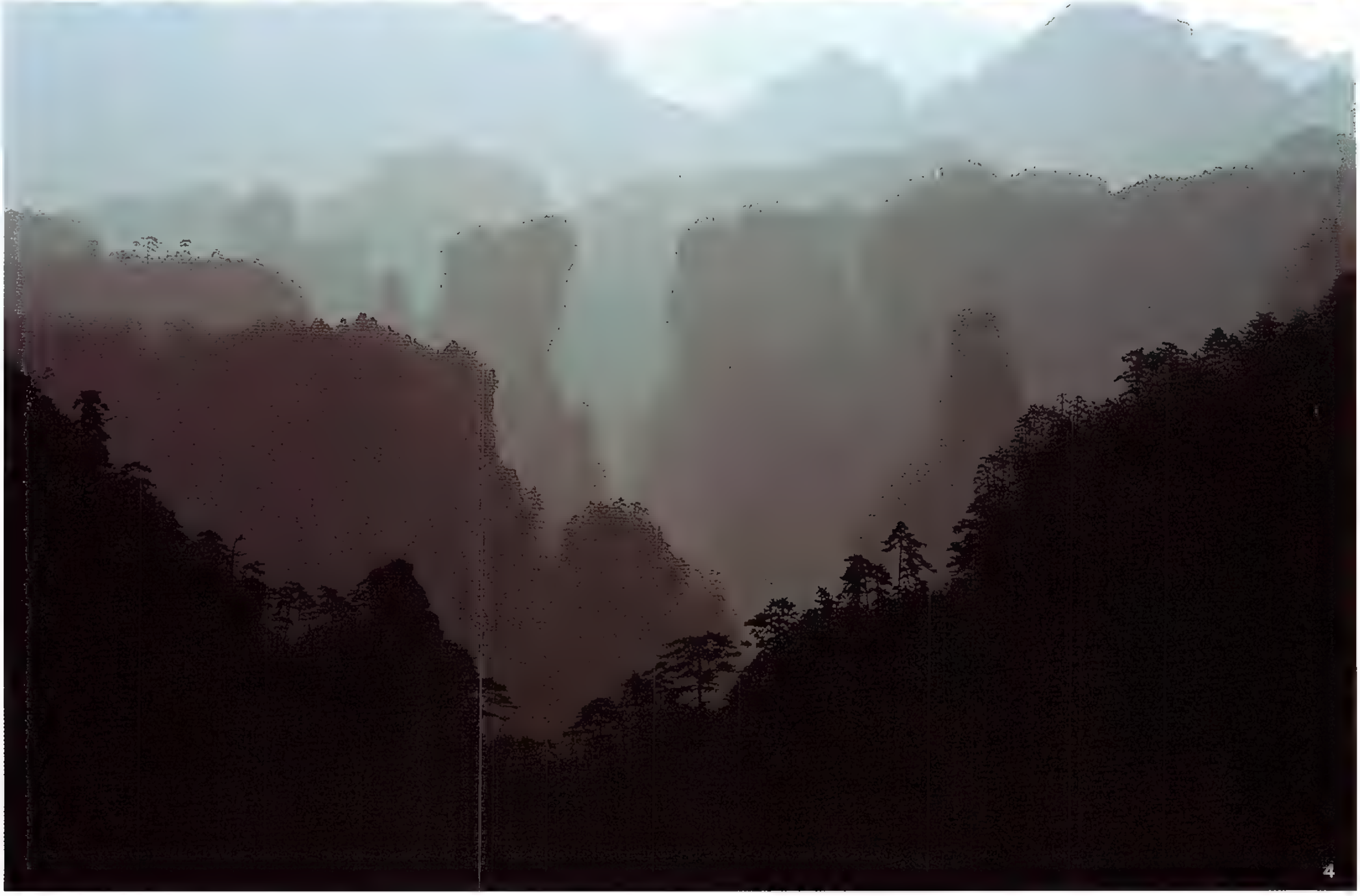
Huangshizhai (Yellow Rock Village), where the most tourist attractions of the scenic zone cluster, provides the largest observation deck of Zhangjiajie, with a commanding view of the mass of exotic rocks by the Jinbian (Golden Whip) Stream to the east; the Peaks of Three Sisters with their heads lost in the clouds and — in fine weather, the Tianmen Mountain 45 kilometres away — to the south; and the primitive forests to the north. With a 97.7 percent forest coverage, Zhangjiajie is a veritable botanical garden as well as a repository of precious trees.

Suoxi Gully looks somewhat different from Zhangjiajie. Its major attractions include the Xihai (West Sea), Shili Picture Gallery, Baizhang Gorge, Baofeng Lake and Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Cave. A ramble through the Shili Picture Gallery brings views of an impressive array of sculptures wrought by the invisible hands of nature: the God of Longevity Waving, the Black Bear Catching a Rat, the Dongfeng Ridge, and Fairies Paying Homage to the Goddess of Mercy. At Baofeng Lake, which can only be reached by a 333-step stone stairway, you can see the poetic picture of tiny peaks reflected in the clear water. The most distinctive attraction of the Suoxi area is perhaps the Huanglong Cave, a 15-kilometre underground tunnel divided into two layers each of wet and dry caves, with the bottom layer separated from the upper one by over 100 metres. Inside the cave are a lake, two rivers, three waterfalls, four pools and 12 halls.

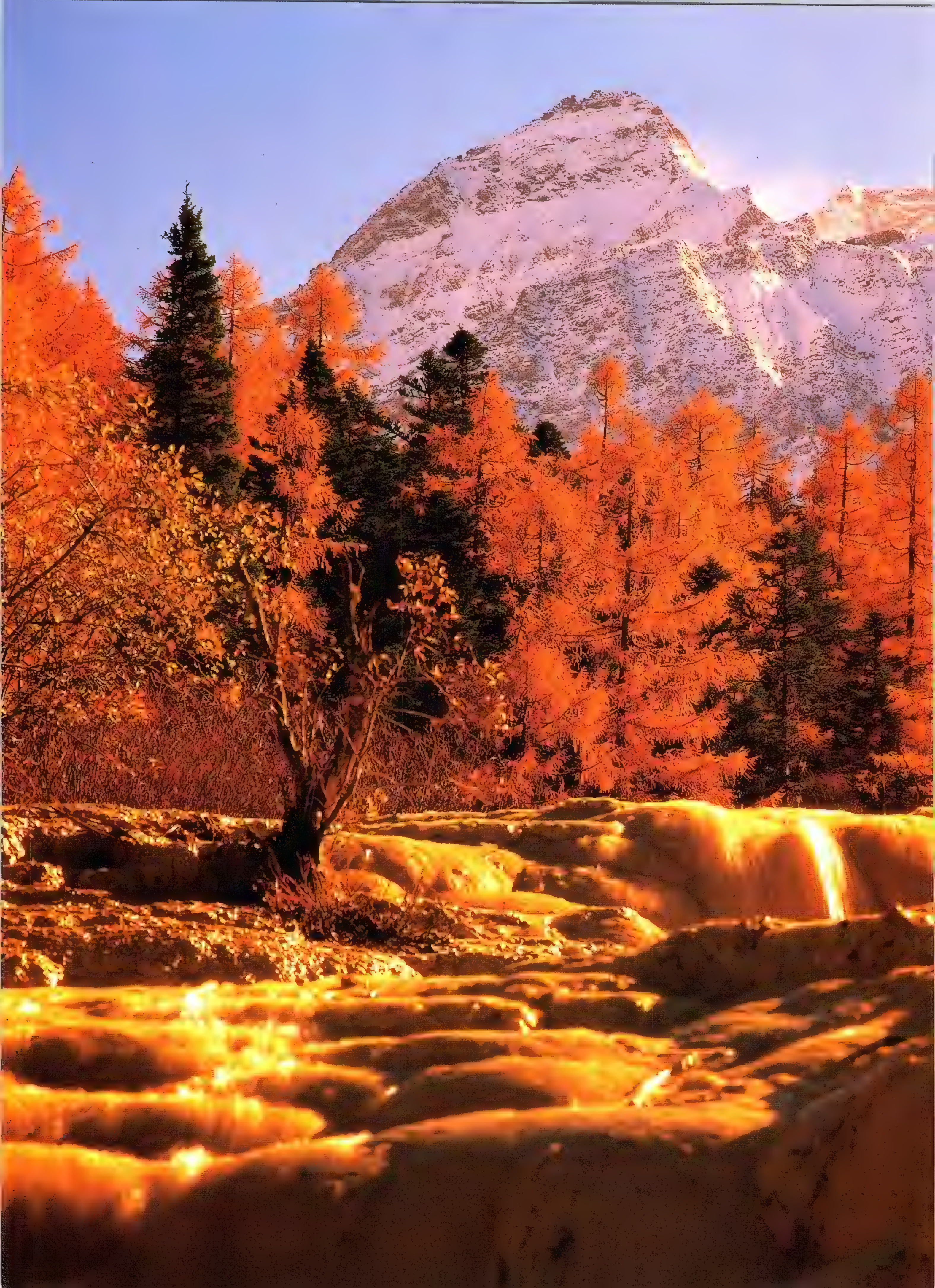
Tianzi (Heavenly Son) Mountain is situated on the highest terrace of Wulingyuan and forms a giant vertical triangle together with Zhangjiajie and Suoxi Gully. It provides the vantage point for watching the widespread and in-depth scenery of Wulingyuan on the eastern, western and southern sides. The Tianzi Mountain scenic area is divided into five zones: Laowuchang, Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Spring, Chapan Pagoda, Fengqi Mountain, and Shijiayan (Shi Family Eaves). Within them are scenic spots such as Heavenly Bridge, Heavenly Gate and Heavenly Pond, and more than 80 overhanging observation decks. As befits Tianzi Mountain's name, the observation decks provide an all-encapsulating view of the surroundings which change with the season and the hour of the day, and are in turn magnificent, thrilling, strange, graceful, mysterious and utterly wide. No view, however, can compare with the thick pall of mist, the ocean of clouds with its choppy waves or the waterfalls conjured up by the clouds.



3



4



HUANGLONG

— Karst Landform of Spectacular Beauty

HUANGLONG

World Heritage in China

Huanglong Scenic Area, situated in Songpan County, Sichuan Province, consists of the scenic zones of Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Valley, Danyun Gorge, Xueshanliang, Xuebao Summit and Muni Gully. In June 1992, when the chairman of the International Nature and Nature Protection Alliance finished his inspection of Huanglong, he said, "Huanglong is a place of unusual beauty and scientific value. It sets the standard for clean and pure water that other places can follow."

Huanglong Valley, the centrepiece of Huanglong Scenic Area, features eight major attractions. The valley has more than 3,000 highland ponds of varying sizes, an 80,000-square-metre travertine "beach" in golden colours, five waterfalls spilling over karst cliffs and four caves filled with stalactites. This stretch of open karst scenery is unparalleled in the world. One slope of the valley, over 100 metres wide and 3.6 kilometres long, is covered with layer upon layer of butter-coloured calcium carbonate, resembling a golden dragon leaping from a snow-clad mountain peak. In the wind, the surfaces of the multi-hued ponds are wrinkled with ripples that seem like the scales on the dragon's body. At the positions of the dragon's head, back and tail, the Front, Middle and Rear temples of the Yellow Dragon Temple are situated. Together with the natural scene, they provide strong support to the name of the gully — Huanglong (Yellow Dragon).

A narrow footpath beginning at Fuyuan Bridge heads up the gully to the Xihua (Flower Washing) Ponds, a cluster of 100 or so multi-hued ponds whose banks are blanketed in wild flowers and trees. The footpath rolls on to three major waterfalls with a cave hidden behind one of them. Further up in the middle of the gully are five major groups of lakes as well as the Golden Beach travertine flow, which form a rare piece of natural beauty.

Near the end of the gully is the Ming-dynasty Huanglong Temple, tucked away in the midst of many multiple-hued lakes and a vast azalea forest. On the 15th of the sixth lunar month, the temple hosts a major fair. On the other side of Fuyuan Bridge is the Danyun Gorge scenic zone, a 35-kilometre-long gully filled with streams, waterfalls and dense woods. In autumn the leaves turn red, adding to the appeal of Huanglong.

The Xueshanliang zone extends from the Monument to the Red Army at Chuanzhu Temple to the mouth of the Huanglong Valley. The highway that runs through it is flanked by large tracks of alpine plants and snow-clad mountain ranges, which are often inundated in a sea of clouds. Major attractions include Chuanzi Gully, Wangtian (Sky Gazing) Rock, the Tibetan Linpo Village and Jixin (Chicken Heart) Rock.

At 5,588 metres above sea level, Xuebao Peak is the main peak of the Minshan Mountains. Its major scenic spots are the modern glaciers on the southwestern slope and the Dalian Lake at the foot of the mountain.

The Muni Gully was incorporated into the Huanglong Scenic Area only recently. Situated a short distance from Huanglong, the gully is known for its Zhaga Waterfalls, reputedly the highest travertine waterfall in the world. Behind the waterfall is a huge water-curtained cave. Another major attraction in the Muni Gully is Erdaohai Lake, which is actually a group of lakes sequestered in the woods. Other attractions include the Pearl Lake and the Niubi (Ox Nose) Springs whose water is said to be able to help improve one's sight.

Previous page:
This travertine formation resembling a shoal is the centrepiece of Huanglong. (by Bian Zhiwu)

1. **Multiple-hued ponds are a salient feature of Huanglong. (by Huang Yanhong)**
2. **The travertine formation resembling terraced fields found near the Rear Temple of the Huanglong Temple (by Li Jie)**
3. **Muni Gully enters winter in mid-October. (by Huang Yanhong)**
4. **The Zhaga Waterfalls in Muni Gully is known as the world's number one travertine waterfall. (by Huang Yanhong)**

JIUZHAIGOU

— a Magic World of Colours

JIUZHAIGOU

Previous page:
The Wuhua (Five-Flower) Lake at Rize Gully looks its seasonal best in autumn. (by Li Jie)

1. **Autumn is the golden season for Jiuzhaigou. (by Huang Yanhong)**
2. **The primitive environment is well kept in Jiuzhaigou. (by Feng Chongneng)**
3. **Travertine sediments and water weeds combine to form a magic underwater world. (by Chen Jin)**
4. **Fangcao (Fragrant Grass) Lake looks its most mysterious in winter. (by Yuan Xuejun)**
5. **At Shuzheng, one of Jiuzhaigou's nine Tibetan villages, many villagers have quit traditional animal husbandry to engage in environmental protection. (by Chen Jin)**
6. **There is something primitive about the Reed Lake near the gully's entrance. (by Li Jie)**

Jiuzhaigou (Nine-Village Valley) in a county of the same name (formerly Nanping) in Sichuan Province derived its name from the nine Tibetan villages there. Records of this scenic zone are found in the Nanping County Gazetteer: "In Yangdong where the Tibetan tribe resides, there is a gully several *li* in length, with tree-covered peaks silhouetted in its green waters." But until the 1970s the gully was rarely known to the outside world.

In June 1992, when two UNESCO experts visited Jiuzhaigou, they were both captivated by its beauty. At Nuorilang, one of them, from Canada, found it was hard to contain his excitement and said, "Definitely this is the world's most graceful and magical natural scenery, in splendid forms and colours." The other one, from New Zealand, was lost in a reverie when he sat by the Peacock Lake, reluctant to leave. Only after repeated urging did he slowly get to his feet. "The colour of water in this lake is so rich that I cannot find appropriate words in the English dictionary to describe some of the hues," he said. It is not surprising that Jiuzhaigou was put on the World Heritage List with such comments: "This is an unbelievable reserve of natural beauty, which measures up to all the standards and satisfies the criteria to be on the natural heritage list."

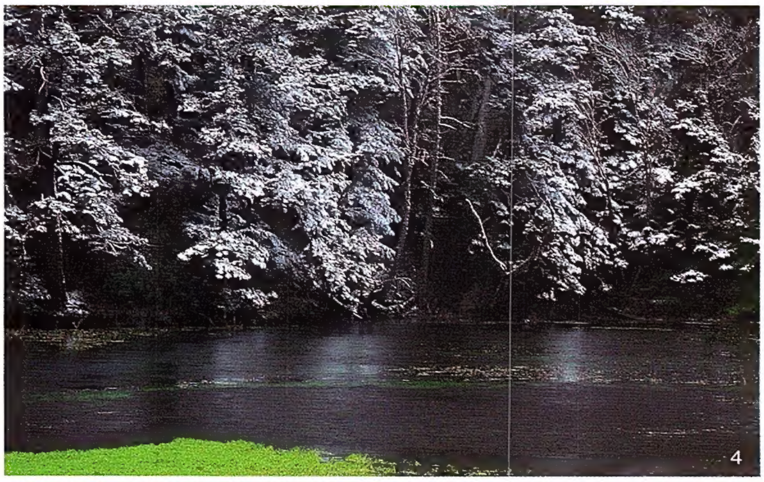
The unique beauty of Jiuzhaigou lies in its water and the unimaginable colours in it. The valley of 29 kilometres from east to west and 47 kilometres from north to south is covered by a 720-square-kilometre forest and strewn with over 100 highland lakes of varying sizes, as well as numerous waterfalls, streams and springs. Jiuzhaigou Valley, whose three gullies (Shuzheng, Rize and Zechawa) are laid out in a Y-shape, drops down for 60 kilometres in a long string of lakes, one sitting above the other. Some lakes are large and deep, some in exotic colours, some as smooth as a mirror. Rapids and waterfalls tumble through thick bushes on the terraced lakes, engendering a veritable feast for the eyes.

The world under the water is full of magic. The sunlight dances on the mass of water weeds, sediments and calcified compounds on the lake bottoms to conjure up unpredictable colours. The Multi-Colour Pond in the Zechawa Gully is one outstanding example in this regard. Other ponds are known for the revival of decaying trees. Old trees that have fallen into the lake soon rear their heads from the depth of the lake to the surface in the form of a patch of flowers or grass.

To preserve the ecological environment, vehicles are forbidden entry and environment-friendly tourist buses operate around the nature reserve.

Translated by Ling Yuan

3


4

5

6

HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUE NO. 234

Macau

Before the end of this century, the sovereignty of Macau will be handed back to its motherland. This small city of around 20 square kilometres is drawing attention from people throughout the world. The peninsula and its islands are where the Chinese and Portuguese cultures have converged for 400 years: Goddess A-Ma, Goddess of Mercy, Mother of God, Jesus; Chinese, Portuguese and Macau-born Portuguese; Chinese restaurants and Portuguese eating places; slot machines, roulette, blackjack and baccarat versus mahjong, cock-fighting, bird-fighting, cricket-fighting.... Go and see this "Las Vegas in the Orient" with your own eyes, or check out our feature story.

Qaidam

If you overlooked this area on your travels through Qinghai into Tibet, you would have missed an interesting travel destination. Qaidam is like a treasure house of wonderful scenic spots, fascinating legends and incredible mysteries: where is the jade pool of the Queen Mother of the Western Heavens? What is the purpose of piling up a one-kilometre-long ridge made of shells? Did the extra-terrestrial creatures leave behind the metal pipes in the rock?... All the enigmas will be unveiled in our "Discoveries" section.

Celebrating the New Millennium

The new century is around the corner! Have you decided yet where to go to witness the turn of the century with your family and friends? What about sharing this precious moment with the 1.2 billion people in China? In fact, across the vast territory of China, there will be various kinds of festive celebrations in different cities and scenic areas. We will highlight some of the major ones and leave the decision to you.

A SYMPHONY OF STYLE

Enjoy our "Symphony Of Style" in the heart of exhilarating Shanghai.

Lavish Apartments
East Asia Apartment

Luxurious Hotel
Regal International East Asia Hotel

Premier Club & Spa
Shanghai International Tennis Centre Club

上海國際網球中心
SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL TENNIS CENTER
SHANGHAI EAST ASIA GROUP

516 Hengshan Road, Shanghai, China 200030 Tel: (8621) 6415 5588 Fax: (8621) 6445 3620 Email: rieah@online.sh.cn

"WINDOW OF THE WORLD"

(Shenzhen, China)

This is another one of the largest tourist centres established by China Travel Service (Holdings) H.K.Ltd. in the Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town. Covering an area of 480,000 sq.m., it adjoins Splendid China and China Folk Culture Villages as well. Here we've assembled the marvellous sights and sites of historical interest in the world, the ancient and modern natural landscapes and attractions as well as dwelling houses and celebrated sculptures, etc., totalling 118 scenic spots. Among them are the world-famous Eiffel Tower of France, the Buckingham Palace of Britain, the Pyramid of Egypt, the Grand Canyon of America, the waterside villages in South-East Asia and Europe-style dwelling houses, etc.

What the most breathtaking and exciting experience of exploration to drift down on the rapids will impress you much is the greatness and spectacular of the American Canyon.Apart from folklore and theatrical performances in the scenic centre, tourists can easily get access to different means of traffic such as the elevated single-track car with a circular route, electromobile, Gypsy caravan, etc. And in the comprehensive service area, we cater the delicacies of season, and handicrafts and souvenirs with consummate skills of various countries, which await your choice. What's more, you may even find entertainment on the Carnival Night when teams of artists parade before you by presenting the delightful programmes of multi-national art and culture and customs and the gigantic party of the epic of dance and music Genesis.

Come and visit "WINDOW OF THE WORLD"

《GENESIS》

The gigantic party of the epic of dance and music

SHENZHEN WORLD MINIATURE CO.,LTD.

Add: Overseas Chinese Town, Shenzhen, China. Tel: 6608000 Fax: 6602590

CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE (HONG KONG) LIMITED

(General Agents for the Business of "Window of the World" in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan as well as Overseas)

T.A. Licence No.: 350273

Add: CTS House, 78-83 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong. Tel: 2853 3888 Fax: 2854 1383